

THE Nonconformist.

"THE DISSIDENCE OF DISSENT AND THE PROTESTANTISM OF THE PROTESTANT RELIGION."

VOL. VI.—NEW SERIES, No. 6.]

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 11, 1846.

[PRICE 6d.]

CONTENTS.

ECCLIASTICAL:—	Summary	84
Nonconformist Portrait	The Grand Debate	84
Gallery. No. III.—De	Public Reading of the Par-	
Foe	liamentary Debates	85
British Anti-state-church	The Ministerial Measure ..	85
Association	What the Protectionists	
The Czar and the Polish	Say to it	85
Nuns	The West Riding Election ..	86
Correspondence	Welsh Sketches.—No. III.	88
The Mirror of Parliament ..	Gleanings	90
Foreign Intelligence	Births and Deaths	91
Postscript	Trade and Commerce	91
POLITICAL ARTICLES:—	Advertisements	92

ECCLIASTICAL AFFAIRS.

NONCONFORMIST PORTRAIT GALLERY.

No. III.—DE FOE.

SUCH was the name, original and acquired, of one of the most interesting men and wonderful writers of modern times. In some qualifications for authorship he was never surpassed, if equalled. While many write truth as if it were fiction, he wrote fiction as if it were truth. "Colonel Jack's life," says the Edinburgh reviewer, "has been commonly reprinted in the genuine accounts of highwaymen; Lord Chatham thought the cavalier a real person, and his description of the civil wars the best in the language; Doctor Mead quoted the book of the plague as the narrative of an eye-witness; and Dr. Johnson sat up all night over Captain Carleton's Memoirs, as a new work of English history he wondered not to have seen before." But if these works have deceived their thousands, "Robinson Crusoe" has deceived its tens of thousands. It beguiles alike old and young. No one would suspect that it was not all a literal record of facts, unless told so. Indeed, it is of no use to tell it—in spite of knowledge to the contrary, faith creeps over the mind insensibly. Yea, we question very much whether De Foe himself did not sometimes think he was indulging his memory rather than his imagination. At any rate, the secret of his success was in his power of transporting his mind to other scenes, of surrounding himself with a perfect set of different circumstances, and of calling up the sense and sensibility for the things fancied which would have been dictated and demanded by the actual facts. Does Robinson Crusoe seem to have been a real man? He was a real man. De Foe was Robinson Crusoe.

It sometimes happens that a man stands in his own light, inasmuch as the surpassing excellence of some of his performances causes the neglect of others which, though not equal to them, yet possess great independent claims. This has been the case with De Foe. His entire works have merit enough to make half-a-dozen very considerable authors; and yet he is known to the mass of readers but as the author of one or two. Several of his works, but little known, are more than good—admirable; and yet "De Foe" means a man, not who battled with folly and injustice in his day, and produced the germ of many moral and social improvements, but who wrote a tale. This we deem a most striking illustration of its charms. That he should have thrown others into comparative shade is very little; the astonishing thing is, that he threw himself there. And yet this is true. His general productions would have been thought more of if written by a meaner man. He is so neglected because he is so honoured.

The chief of De Foe's writings were produced after he had attained to an age in which most men seek for quiet and comfort, and after a course of toil and trial that would have worn most men out. He had filled a position of some prominence and power in four reigns, and those none of the most peaceful. And during that period, he had displayed wonderful sagacity in the midst of much to stultify the clearest intellects; wonderful calmness in the midst of much to intoxicate the weak; and wonderful honesty in the midst of much to corrupt such as could be corrupted. He had this mark of a thorough man—he was before his time. He believed in the progress of society, and did not a little to help it on. In relation to education, commerce, economy, and benevolence, there are plans and suggestions in his writings, the realisation of which has been the work and honour of our own day, or will have to be of a day still future! And as he could originate schemes which his own age could not appreciate, so he could maintain principles which his own age op-

posed. He possessed force as well as foresight. He lived in the present as well as the future. He was not a monster made up only of one eye. The prophet's "spirit and power" accompanied, in his case, the prophet's sagacity. He preserved his integrity, and, in order to that, his individuality. He lived in himself, and not in others. Clear in his own mind, and strong in his own heart, he was superior to party considerations. He was too true a Dissenter not sometimes to dissent from Dissenters, and too warm a patriot to disapprove of every measure supported or concocted by the Tories. He bore the suspicions and maledictions of his own party in the spirit of Lecundus, when asked to deliver up his Bible, "I am a Christian, and not a traitor;" and the sentiment he uttered of money he wrought into all things, "The obligation of an honest man can never die." Wise, firm, faithful, kind, and careful, unimpeachable in character and potent in pen, he was just the man for the times in which he fell—just the man for any times, and would never have needed to complain of fitting scenes and seasons, a complaint which, aimed at Providence, hits only the complainers. When men want occasions, what is it but occasions wanting men?

De Foe was more than once in prison, as any one might have predicted who had known what he would be, and when he would live. It is a trifling circumstance, that of his having been in prison. No earthly scene has a more various character than a prison. It is what it is made. Material buildings prove nothing as to moral worth; human sentences are often reversed in heaven. Verily, when the history of human merits is written up, prisons will figure more than palaces. What truth or goodness has not had its representatives there? Science, patriotism, religion, have all had friends and patrons in the dungeon. But what of that? When the innocent are punished, the judge condemns himself; and who was king in truth, trembling Felix or dauntless Paul? For publishing the "Shortest Way with the Dissenters," a pamphlet intended to check the high-church fury, by seriously advising its utmost gratification, De Foe was condemned to pay a fine of two hundred marks, to stand thrice in the pillory, to be imprisoned during the Queen's pleasure, and to find sureties for good behaviour for seven years. He was admirably adapted to stand in the pillory. Unabashed and undisturbed by the prospect, he spent the time in writing a hymn to the instrument of punishment, which a less courageous man would have spent in penning a recantation. And when the day of exposure arrived, a day of glory dawned, for his enemies crowned, when they only meant to crucify, him. He held a levee at the Royal Exchange, Cheapside, and Temple-bar, while his ready and racy verse, provided a bitter and unredeemed exposure for the agents of legal injustice:—

"Tell them the men that placed him here,
Are scandals to the times;
Are at a loss to find his guilt,
And can't commit his crimes."

De Foe was marked by the happy combination of qualities necessary to the exertion of a healthy and permanent influence on society. There are some men who, though gifted with splendid abilities, can never make them tell in action. There is a squeamishness, or weakness, or awkwardness, about them, which deprives their kind of all advantage from their schemes and speculations. They have fine imaginations, but no vehicle—nothing to connect them with the outward, actual world. They show wonderful acuteness in criticising the plans of others, but do nothing themselves. They are always at work, and always useless. The engine is in a mighty bustle, but the carriages are not attached. And there are other men who have a great disdain of mere theorists—are always crying out for something practical—who, from want of sense and wisdom, spend their days in little more than laborious trifling. Doing, is their only test of worth; what is done is quite another matter. They are too zealous to think, too economical to seek large returns, too fond of results to secure them. Their engine must be going if it draw only an empty train. De Foe belonged to neither of these classes. He was not too ethereal for life, nor too practical for power. We can easily conceive of a more profound intellect, and of a more bustling activity; but a better union of wisdom and of work, a finer fellowship of the faculties that possess and fill a man's sphere in the social world, a fitter association of the mental and moral powers that yield living and lasting fruit, the history of mankind has seldom presented. He meddled with most questions, and meddled with none without illustrating them by true sense and a kindly

spirit. Few men have done so much for their race, and fewer still have done so well. He gave an impulse to truth, liberty, and love, which the remotest generations cannot fail to feel and profit by.

De Foe wrote more than two hundred works. Had all written as excellently, there would have been no need of Bishop Burnet's complaint, "This age greans under such a surcharge of new books, that though the many good ones lately published do much balance the great swarms of ill, or at least needless ones; yet all men complain of the unnecessary charge and trouble many new books put them to; the truth of it is, printing is become a trade, and the process must be kept going; so that if it were but to shuffle out an ill book, a man may be tempted to keep them at work." What would the good man say now?

CONGREGATIONAL CENTRALISATION.

We call the especial attention of our readers to a letter, inserted in another column, from a correspondent who subscribes himself H. D. S. We have every reason to repose confidence both in his integrity, and in his opportunities for gaining correct information. But, lest we should be hasty in our judgment, and hoping, almost against hope, that his surmises are not warranted by the actual facts of the case, we shall defer all comment for a week or two, and, taking care that the letter of our correspondent shall be seen by the secretaries of the Congregational Union, shall await any explanations which may be forwarded to us.

BRITISH ANTI-STATE-CHURCH ASSOCIATION.

SOIRÉE IN THE TOWER HAMLETS.

A public Soirée of the above Association was held on Wednesday evening last, at the Eastern Institution, Commercial-road; a numerous and respectable company being present on the occasion. The fine hall of the Institution is admirably adapted for such a purpose, and when the company, amounting to between three and four hundred, were seated, presented an animated and pleasing spectacle. Seven tables extended the length of the room, and were plentifully supplied with tea, coffee, fruits, and other refreshments. John Scoble, Esq., was called to the chair, and was supported by Dr. Cox, Dr. Price, Edward Miall, Esq., Messrs. C. Stovel, E. Halliday, H. S. Scaborn, D. Katterns, J. Talbot, T. Moore, G. W. Pegg, B. Parsons, of Ebley, ministers of the Gospel; J. M. Hare, Esq., J. Kingsley, Esq., J. Hooper, Esq., T. H. Fry, Esq., J. Dunn, Esq., and other ministers and gentlemen of the neighbourhood.

The CHAIRMAN, in some brief remarks, expressed his sense of the honour that had been done him in placing him in such a position, though, as he was well aware, there were some who would not esteem it as an honour to be there. For his own part, the Association, both in its principles and its operations, commended itself to his judgment and his affections. He had full confidence in its leaders; and he both hoped and believed, that as time advanced it would receive the assistance of all, and would be thereby enabled to advance the great cause to which it stood pledged.

Dr. Cox proposed the first sentiment:—

The dissolution of the Union between church and state—may the fruits of observation and experience, confirming the conclusions of reason and argument, lead our rulers to perceive that a cordial understanding among all sections of the community, no less than the interests of true religion, demands the withdrawal of every interference on the part of the state in ecclesiastical and spiritual matters!

He appeared in what was felt to be a cause of the greatest magnitude. The complainant was Christianity, and he was instructed to state, that she had been robbed, not of silver and gold, but of what she deemed more glorious treasure—she had been deprived of the title-deeds of her dwelling, of liberty of thought and freedom of action, and had been offered in exchange parliamentary parchments, which she repudiated. Her dwelling had been rifled and her apparel stolen. She had been deprived of her robe of purity and humility, her girdle of charity, and the sandals with which her feet were shod—garments which, however coarse, were comely and beautiful still. She had been clothed in meretricious ornaments, and exhibited to the scorn of a scoffing world. To expose her to ridicule, they had sometimes placed on her head a tiara, sometimes a crown, and sometimes a mitre; putting a sword into

her hand and forcing her to use it. She had been treated as a carnal goddess instead of an angel of light; and she had, too, been forced into an unnatural alliance with the state, from which she prayed to be divorced. And who were her witnesses? "The faithful and true witness" had declared, that "his kingdom was not of this world," and when he sent forth his disciples without endowments or aid from the secular power, he asked, "Lacked ye anything? and they said, Nothing." And the spirit within bore witness to the spiritual character of Christianity. If the world was to be benefited, thought to be free, religion to be advanced, and the kingdoms of this world to become the kingdoms of our Lord and of his Christ, the existing alliance between the church and the state must be entirely and for ever overthrown [cheers].

Mr. B. PARSONS, of Ebley, supported the sentiment; and, in doing so, adverted to the benefits which would accrue to the clergy of the establishment from its separation from the state. They were now subject to restrictions and laws, which to many of them must be a sore burden, and from which they would be glad to escape. The separation of the church from the state would not only bring with it many social advantages, but remove obstacles that at present existed to the spread of religion among the people. He then read an extract from the *Congregational Magazine*, describing, in the strongest terms, the pernicious influence of the establishment principle, and asked whether, if they believed so much, they were not amply justified in agitating for its destruction.

Dr. PRICE proposed the next sentiment:—

The voluntary principle—may it be not only recognised by all classes of Christians as the principle which Jesus Christ has ordained for the maintenance and extension of his kingdom in the earth, but also be so exemplified, in the practice of all, as to lead to the speedy and entire abandonment of compulsory exactions!

It was a sentiment which was putting forth a claim upon public regard, and promised results fraught with benefit to mankind at large. Formerly it was scarcely audible, and when heard was regarded with a suspicious betokening mistrust of its pretensions. But in the agitation of the public mind, attention had been fixed upon it. It had been turned about, and looked at in various aspects, and its claims canvassed; and it had gradually worked its way to the esteem of no inconsiderable part of the community. It could not now be shirked, or put out of sight [hear, hear]. It had a vitality, a stubbornness, a tenacity of life about it, which secured attention. The object of the Association was to put it prominently before the public mind—not as an abstract theory, or as remote from their interests as the stars in the midnight sky, but as claiming the attention and confidence of all. At present it was misunderstood—represented as professing to be an angel of light, but emanating from the regions of darkness; and as exempting the human mind from authority in matters of religion. But it did not in the slightest degree sanction the notion, that men were free from obligation to a higher power, and should not yield their spirits to the control of divine truth. Dr. Price, then, in a speech of some length, adverted to the evil of church establishments, as shown by history, and also as exemplified in the existing movement on the continent.

Mr. EDWARD MIALI, in supporting the sentiment, said: It appears to my mind very much like attempting to prove that two and two make four, to argue seriously about the voluntary principle. True, it is a question which can enlist the passions of mankind; and, consequently, is not so clearly seen from the excitement of those passions. We are accustomed to hear men, eminent in society, and ranking high as statesmen, speak of the voluntary principle with contempt, and scarcely ever without a sneer or a curl of the lip; and it is supposed that he who would attempt to carry out the principle in this country must be either very fanatical or entirely wanting in common sense. Now, I think the best way to deal with all such people is, to deal with them merely as the subjects and the possessors of common sense. It will not do to argue with them on high theological or moral grounds, for there are few of them into whose minds has ever entered one single theological or moral idea. In order that they might understand what we mean by the voluntary principle, I would just ask them, if it is possible, to put aside all considerations of money involved in the question. Let us get rid of every excitement of worldly inducement to blind the eyes of statesmen in reference to this matter. Let us suppose that no money could enter a man's mind, and make him concern himself for church principles. The voluntary principle would not be mentioned with such superlative contempt if there were not six or seven millions of money connected with the opposite principle [hear, hear]. The whole difficulty that surrounds this matter arises out of the property connected with it; and, that we may overcome this difficulty, it is not so much necessary to speak eloquently, or elucidate clearly, or argue conclusively, as to act consistently. The former part of this sentiment will certainly be realised when the latter part is consistently put into force. If those who hold the voluntary principle think that the religion of Jesus Christ can be spread by the use of persuasion only, and not by the magisterial sword—if they who hold this opinion will, in their several walks of life, in all the various scenes of society in which they are called upon to act their part, develop it fully, distinctly, and clearly, and follow it out in their own conduct, then we are not far, cannot be far, from that glorious consummation which shall see the church of the living Redeemer emancipated from secular thralldom [cheers]. But how can we so exemplify the voluntary principle in our practice, as to lead to the abandonment of the compulsory system? You have to maintain it in the face of a scrutinising world, and you must carry it out, not only in connexion with ecclesiastical affairs, but in all that respect the promulgation of opinion or sentiment. In your social habits, let there be nothing of tyranny, or which would force your opinion upon a judgment not yet convinced—nothing which would inflict punishment upon a man because he is unable to see a truth in the same light with yourselves. If there be any disposition to visit with penalties, either of a legal, social, or a moral nature, those who take perhaps a wider range in

their sentiments than you do, then you are not exemplifying the voluntary principle, but are exposing it to suspicion. I confess with mournful feelings, that there has been amongst Dissenting communities, rather too much of that narrowness of mind, and bigotry of feeling, that disposition to enforce opinions upon society, which misrepresenting the great principle for which they contend, give an excuse to those who occupy high stations in society in turning their backs upon them and treating them with contempt. I do not believe there is so much of this as is pretended by those who dislike us, but there is too much to be consistent with a fair exemplification of our principle. To defend the voluntary principle, we should avow it openly, as though we looked upon it as of vital importance. I do not believe the employment of argument will advance this question. Men's intellects are not so much mystified as their passions, and our grand instrument must be an ardent sincerity of profession and zeal. It has all along been treated as a speculative, rather than a practical matter. Many Dissenters have spoken about it in their own little circles, who have not enforced it upon the consciences of the world without; they have not gone among those who hold compulsory principles, and told them that those principles were diametrically opposed to the mind of Christ and the spirit of the gospel; they have not rebuked this sin as they have rebuked other sins. They have put much of their principle in their pockets, and godly men belonging to the establishment may want only this one thing to reach their minds; namely, a full and earnest exemplification of the voluntary principle in the conduct of those who profess it. They do not want so much argument, the thing is clear enough; but they do want to see that, without which, no cause will ever succeed—the consistent zeal and earnestness of its own professors. Those who look from within the gate of the establishment, may well think Dissenters do not believe their own sentiments, if they never speak them out. And when they observe that those men are the first to be put down who stand up boldly to advocate the spirituality of the church of Christ, they may well say they do not believe either in the efficiency of the voluntary principle, or the sincerity of those who profess it. Can they believe it? I would, therefore, call upon those who are earnestly desirous of convincing Churchmen—good, pious Churchmen—of the evils of a connexion between church and state, to discharge their own responsibility, and let every Churchman in the empire see, that in the spirit of love, and with a desire to give no more offences than need be, they are ready to bear testimony to what they regard as the mind of Christ, and leave them to form their opinions on it [loud cheers].

Mr. E. HALLIDAY proposed the following sentiment:—

Protestant Dissenters—May they never forget that their avowed principles include a protest against all state establishments of religion, as well as against every form of spiritual despotism, and, in the exercise of the elective franchise, may they seek to give to this twofold protest a practical effect!

He said: that if it was important that their views should be set in the clearest light, it was still more so that they should be manfully avowed and consistently maintained. Dissenters had failed in this. It had come to be thought a mark of eminent piety and good breeding to conceal their opposition to church establishments; or, if anything was said respecting them, it was accompanied by soft expressions about the pain it cost them. Now this only made them despicable in the eyes of Churchmen, who would naturally say that, if they had a sufficient ground for separation it should be honestly stated, and if not, it was their duty to conform. This operated injuriously among Dissenters themselves, for it robbed the earnest asserter of his principles of his due influence, and marked him out as one whose respectability, and even piety, was doubtful [hear, hear]. And what had been gained by this miserable policy? Why, it had brought some half dozen Churchmen to talk with Dissenters about terms of union. It was found that Dissenters ceased to toy with their oppressors, and instead, to witness to the truth that was in them. To suppress their sentiment was most unwise in the existing controversy between the authority of the past and the demands of the present. It was an era signalled by momentous changes in commerce and legislation, and though some might see only cause for alarm, they should rather be hopeful of the triumph of truth. When all that they held most dear was affected by the struggle, should they, the Dissenters of England—with a history that spoke of noble deeds and noble lives, and of principles that could suffer only from concealment, and must win respect as they became known—should they, by their inaction, prove unworthy of their ancestry, their principles, and their present position? Should they not rather gird themselves for the glorious strife, and hasten the day that would yet dawn on the grave of despotism, and witness the enfranchisement of universal man in civil and religious freedom. Let them, by controversy, now secure permanent union hereafter, and by fighting out the battle hasten the time of peace [cheers]. For that purpose let them not fail to exercise their rights at the hustings, not turning craven or coward, or being scared either by the ghost of Toryism or the glitter of an aristocracy. Others might give forth uncertain sounds, but, at the next election, let the Dissenters of the Tower Hamlets show themselves to be men of another mould, and of nobler aspirations, and prepared to unite with others in destroying not only commercial monopoly, but an iniquitous and unchristian establishment [loud cheers].

J. KINGSLEY, Esq., in supporting the sentiment, stated, that he had himself formerly been a Churchman and an Orangeman, and that he had had experience of the injurious effects of the state-church principle in deadening the best feelings of our nature. As an Irishman he knew its workings in the sister-land, and all that he had seen of the system there only increased his abhorrence to it, and strengthened his determination to exert himself for its destruction.

Mr. D. KATTERS adverted to the unreasonable requirements of those who called upon them to suspend their operations in order to promote union. He loved Christian union well, but he loved Christian principle

better. If they were to be silent to promote union, they must also continue so to preserve it, and this would involve an abandonment of their principles, and be a tacit admission that they were not of the vast importance which they had always hitherto been considered.

Mr. CHARLES STOVEL proposed,—

The British Anti-State-Church Association—May the seed which it is sowing result in an abundant harvest!

In supporting the sentiment he urged the desirableness of pressing the question upon the attention of the public in its religious aspect, as being by far the most important. The present might now perhaps be regarded as the wintry season of their operations; but the spring time would come, when the sun of heaven would shine upon them, and the seed they were sowing would germinate and blossom, and produce a rich harvest of fruit.

Mr. H. S. SEABORN moved, and J. M. HARE, Esq., seconded, a vote of thanks to the chairman, which having been briefly acknowledged by him, the meeting broke up at a late hour.

THE CZAR AND THE POLISH NUNS.

The *Times* publishes the following narrative of the unparalleled persecutions endured by the sisters of the Basilian convent of Minsk, for refusing to change their religion for that of Nicholas. For this offence they were arrested by order of a Greek bishop, and shut up in a convent of "schismatic," i.e., Greek, nuns. The treatment they received during their incarceration is scarcely surpassed in cruelty by anything we read of in the old martyrologies, certainly by nothing we find in Fox's "Book of Martyrs." Nay, for its severity in point of duration, it is perhaps unparalleled:—

Before six o'clock, a.m., (such is the narrative of the Abbess Macrena Mieczoslawska), we were obliged to sweep the whole house, to light the fires, prepare the wood, carry it, draw the water, distribute it, and re-establish order and cleanliness after the orgies of the preceding night.

At six o'clock we were led to "hard labour," which varied according to the season. We were at first made to hew stones and to convey them in barrows, to which we were chained. From twelve to one o'clock an hour of repose was allowed; from one till night-fall, hard labour; after this we were employed in the kitchen, in tending the cattle, or in preparing wood and water for the next day. Every means was tried to render these services more difficult and irksome to us; the kitchen and house were dirtied on purpose, the water we brought was spilt on the ground, and we were scolded and beaten unmercifully.

The labours of the day over, we were locked up in our dungeon, still chained and fettered. The only furniture of this prison consisted of a little straw to serve the purpose of beds; but the ornament of our abode, the delight of our hearts, the strength of our souls, was our beloved crucifix, brought from Minsk—our church, our altar, our Master, our Father, our all! We passed the night in praying and watching at His feet. We began with prayers and exercises, which we had not time to perform in the day time: we scarcely snatched two hours' sleep. Such was our regimen during the seven years of our martyrdom. We always commenced our devotions by prostrating ourselves with our faces to the ground, to pray God for the conversion of the Emperor Nicholas.

Our food was so wretched that hunger often compelled us to support ourselves on the grass of the fields during the summer, and to share the fodder of the cows and the pigs during the winter, in spite of the blows and menaces of the Czernicians, who brutally told us, "You do not deserve the food of our pigs!"

In winter, notwithstanding the intense cold, no firing was allowed us; our limbs were often frozen, and our wounds became more acutely painful in consequence.

At the end of two months (1838) began the punishment of flagellation, which was inflicted twice a week; the order of Siemaszko enjoined thirty lashes with the rod, but Michaelwicz added twenty more of his own accord. This punishment of whipping soon became more frequent, in consequence of the instigation of Michaelwicz. On every occasion I caused the decrees of Siemaszko to be presented to me, and read them aloud to all my sisters. We were scourged in the yard, under a sort of shed, uncovered on all sides, in presence of Michaelwicz, the Czernicians, priests, deacons, church-singers, children, and everybody who lived and blasphemed in this house, consecrated to the retirement and piety of the spouses of Jesus Christ.

To exaggerate the punishment, we were forced to witness the whipping of each other, whilst the Czernicians rejoiced, blasphemed, and clapped their hands on beholding our blood streaming down.

The flagellation over, we sang the *Te Deum* and were led back to hard labour, without an instant being allowed for repose. We could be tracked by our own blood, and often we observed on our bodies the strips of flesh which had been torn away by the rods. If any sank from exhaustion, a sound drubbing with sticks soon forced them to rise again. One of our sisters, Colomba Gorsukaona, swooned after she had been scourged. Michaelwicz administered a vigorous blow as a restorative; she dragged herself to her barrow, and filled it, but on attempting to drag it away she fell and expired.

Baptista Dovenar was burnt alive in a large stove, in which she was shut up by the Czernicians, after they had ordered her to light the fire.

Another nun died from a terrible blow inflicted by the igumena, or abbess, of the Czernicians, who cleft her head in two with a billet of wood, for having dared to use a knife to scratch out a spot of pitch from the floor, not having been able to remove it otherwise!

Two other of our sisters fell victims to fresh flagellations. One died on the very day of punishment, in consequence of a scene I am about to relate:—

We were tormented by hunger, but God fed us from time to time, by inspiring poor people to throw us the remains of their bread. Sister Coletta, having perceived some on the day in question, advanced to receive it, but a Czernician having noticed the action, fell upon her with a stick (for they never laid aside their sticks, which they wore, like sabres, by their sides, and which they used on all occasions very freely), and, after having knocked her down, boxed her ears, tore her cheeks, dragged her about by the hair, and hurled her so violently against a piece of wood that one side of it was broken. The good sister, as usual, offered no resistance, and the same evening she expired on my knees.

For seven long years did these holy sisters, two hundred and forty-five in number, endure this unceasing trial. "All, without one exception (says the abbess) sealed with their blood their inviolable attachment to their faith and the church, and their fidelity to Christ and his vicar. To God alone be the praise."

This most shocking tragedy was not acted in a corner. The Czar heard of it, applauded it, commanded it to be acted again and again. The nuns having addressed a petition to the Emperor Nicholas, in which they protested that they were willing to abandon to the Government their property, and the pension promised them on leaving Minsk, to renounce everything in short, provided they might be allowed to die in the free exercise of their religion. In reply, a ukase of the Emperor's was read to them by schismatic Archbishop Siemaszko, in which he declares,—

All that the *Archi-archi-archiey* (i.e., three times archbishop), Siemaszko has done, and all that he shall do for the propagation of the orthodox religion, I hereby approve, confirm, and declare holy, holy, thrice holy; and I order everybody not to dare to resist him in anything."

Such (says the *Times*) is the mercy shown by Nicholas I. and his *Archi-archi-archiey*—that is, thrice (brutal) archbishop Siemaszko—not to a set of Socialists or Mormonites, or other still more lawless and violent fanatics, but to a community of poor, helpless, inoffensive women, whose only crime was constancy to their religious faith. For these truly devoted and pious persons we can only express the deepest sympathy. As for their ruthless executioners, we know not what arguments to address to minds so destitute of the commonest feelings of humanity. Yet, if for no higher motives, at least for the sake of common sense and sound policy, we beg them to consider the folly as well as wickedness of their conduct. They may elevate men and women to martyrdom—they may sink them to hypocrisy—they may provoke them to gloomy fanaticism and revenge; one thing they cannot make them—converts. Persecution, while it sanctifies a good cause, makes even a bad cause popular. It has been well observed by an eloquent writer of our own times, that "Those who preach to rulers the duty of employing power to propagate truth would do well to remember that falsehood, though no match for truth alone, has often been found more than a match for truth and power together."

And if reasons such as these fail to carry weight with them, let the Autocrat still consider that there are degrees of persecution as well as degrees of toleration, and that if he cannot be less severe than Constantine he need not be more cruel than Diocletian.

THE EVANGELICAL CONFERENCE of Berlin is on the point of dissolving, without having come to any agreement on any point of arrangement respecting the Protestant differences. Some of the deputies were to quit Berlin on the 1st instant.

We learn from Breslau, that the Abbé Ronge has just proposed, at a meeting of the members of the new church that he has founded in that city, that in future the persons who profess his creed shall call themselves members of the Universal Christian Church, and not German or Christian Catholics, as hitherto.

MARTIN LUTHER.—The 300th anniversary of Luther's death, which falls on the 18th instant, will be celebrated with the greatest pomp in all the Lutheran churches of Prussia. In that of the royal palace of Wittemberg, in which repose the mortal remains of Luther and Melancthon, 400 artists and dilettanti will perform the *Messiah*, and Luther's celebrated hymn, "*Ein Fester Burg ist unser Gott*," composed by himself.

THE LAITY OF THE ESTABLISHED CHURCH.—We perceive, with some regret, a consequence of the spread of the Tractarian heresy which might have been foreseen. We allude to the rapidly increasing alienation of the laity from the established church. Perhaps alienation may be too strong an expression; we will change it for coolness, doubt, hesitation, distrust. The same men who, a few years back, were earnest and zealous, urging the duty of church extension on the Government, and helping forward such plans as that of the Bethnal-green churches, are now brought to a stand, and declare that they scarcely know whether to wish for the increased power or influence of the church under present circumstances, or not.—*Record*.

THE FREE CHURCH OF SCOTLAND AND THE PROPOSED EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—We observe from the Scotch papers, that various members of the Free Church are drawing off from the proposed Alliance, some from fear of theological compromise, others from a conviction that the projected union is impracticable. Last week it was the subject of discussion in the Free Presbyteries of Edinburgh and Glasgow. At the meeting of the former body, Dr. Candlish expressed his anxiety that it should be understood that he, and those who had hitherto acted along with him in this matter, had done so on their own responsibility, and not as a church. He stated the difficulties in the way of that union:—

The chief of these was the relation in which they were placed by this matter to the established church of Scotland. In some quarters of their church there was some anxiety felt lest they were compromising the testimony they had recently made by concurring in the principle of the Liverpool conference. He said for himself, that he held it to be a duty incumbent upon him as a member and a minister of the Free Church, and the relation in which he stood to it, and to the testimony he had to bear, that he could conceive of no question touching his relation to the church catholic, which should supersede the question of the relation in which he stood to the Free Church. The conference at Liverpool was a great movement; but he could never put it in comparison with the relation he held to the Free Church. He acknowledged that they regarded the existence of the established church as a great difficulty in that movement, and as, what it might possibly prove, the dead fly in the apothecary's ointment. He would just add, that it would be foolish in them, even in the most sanguine among them, to peril the cause of Christian unity upon this movement. He believed that when Christian unity was to be realised, it would be by a more direct interposition of the Spirit of God. The utmost they could hope to be was to become pioneers in that great cause; the utmost the most sanguine could dream of was simply that they might stir up the various Christian churches to earnest prayer upon this subject.

After a few remarks by Mr. Davidson, Mr. Milroy, Mr. Elder, and Mr. Syme, the subject was allowed to drop.

At the meeting of the Glasgow Presbytery, Mr. King proposed to overture the approaching Assembly not to commit itself by inconsiderate connexion with

the Evangelical Alliance; and Mr. Arnot proposed, as an amendment, that the Presbytery did not feel itself called on to pronounce a deliverance on the merits of that Alliance, or its *modus operandi*, but simply overture the Assembly to take such measures as will best promote unity, without compromising any truth. On a division, which did not take place till two o'clock on Wednesday morning, twelve voted for Mr. King's overture, and ten for Mr. Arnot's.

THE WATCHMAN AND THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.—The *Watchman*, in each successive number, becomes more and more peremptory in its call upon the Congregational Union to repudiate the sentiments avowed by Dr. Campbell in his late controversy with Sir C. E. Smith. It accuses the doctor of falsehood itself, and of having practised literary fraud. It would seem from this impotent display of malice, as though the success of the Evangelical Alliance were involved in the determination of the committee of the Union in this matter.

CORRESPONDENCE.

CONGREGATIONAL CENTRALISATION.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—Permit me to bring a subject of great importance under the notice of your readers, whose lively interest in everything that can possibly effect the well-being of the Nonconforming community, may be presumed from their attachment to your valuable paper.

The tendency of the age of centralisation has been frequently pointed out by you, and your exposure of the varied evils which inevitably result from it, must have had due weight with men of uprightness and intelligence. Any attempt, therefore, to modify, in accordance with this tendency, the form of government, or modes of action which are peculiar to Independency, cannot but awaken alarm; but, more especially, when the attempt is a covert one—not characterised by that manliness and candour which always accompany rectitude of purpose.

The point to which I am desirous of drawing serious attention, is the interference of the Congregational Union with our collegiate institutions. It is one of the utmost importance—one on which the Dissenters at large, as well as the immediate supporters of those institutions, have a right to demand the fullest satisfaction. My reason for adverting to it is, that I have strong ground for entertaining the suspicion, that students, at the expiration of their collegiate course, are to be introduced to churches wanting ministers; not, as formerly, by the committees or tutors of their respective colleges, but by the committee of the Congregational Union. It is rumoured, that such a flagrant usurpation has been actually submitted to by some, if not all, of the committees of the metropolitan colleges, and that they have voluntarily surrendered the rights with which they, in common with the tutors, have been entrusted by the public, for the express purpose of carrying out consistently the distinctive principles of Independency. Now, Congregational Dissenters (the Dissenting body) have a right to be informed if this be so, or not. Has the privilege of introducing students to vacant churches been really transferred, by those who have hitherto faithfully and satisfactorily exercised it, to a body, all the movements and manœuvres of which have an obvious direction towards priestly domination? If such a transference has been made, the consequences are obvious; they need not be enlarged upon here. Our object should be to ascertain the fact, and I conceive it to be one which imperatively calls for investigation. It is needful to inquire if the college still occupy a position independent of all external control, and which is alone in harmony with the principles on which they were founded, and are now supported. Young men seeking admission into them ought to know in what relation they shall stand to an organisation which they cannot but regard with suspicion, if not with dislike, supposing they are well acquainted with, and feel a strong attachment to, the principles of Congregational Dissent. The churches are deeply interested in knowing how far they may depend on the rising ministry for the uncompromising advocacy of that scriptural form of ecclesiastical polity, which, when intelligently worked, is the most effectual safeguard of the rights of individual Christians against the encroachments of priestcraft, which becomes the more dangerous in proportion to the subtlety and strength of the organisation which practises it.

I trust the Dissenters who love fair play and honest dealing will seek satisfaction on this subject. The mere suspicion of such vital changes being even contemplated is sufficient reason for them to ask for information. If this letter shall have the effect of awakening attention and provoking inquiry, the object will be fully attained of,

Sir, your obedient servant,

H. D. S.

THE EVANGELICAL ALLIANCE.

To the Editor of the Nonconformist.

SIR,—I was delighted to find that an able correspondent has undertaken to furnish your valuable journal with sketches, presenting before our friends in England, a view of our physical, moral, and religious condition in the principality. Wales may be regarded as an isolated country, wherein the inhabitants dwell quiet and secure, and have but little intercourse with other people. Our venerable language, ancient as our native mountains, seems to be as deeply and as firmly rooted in the affections of our countrymen, as those hills are upon their foundations; and likely to last as long. Behind the ramparts of our vernacular tongue, we are hidden, as it were, from observation. We have watchmen placed upon our towers, to observe the motions of the world around us, through the medium of English apparatus, and to give us information of what is going on, whilst the motions and revolutions of our own little planet, are almost entirely obscured from others. I hope that your correspondent will continue in his laudable endeavours to present the state of our beloved country in its true light, before our English neighbours.

A correspondent in your last (whether he be the same as the writer of Sketches, I know not), stated that a favourable opinion respecting the proposed Evangelical Alliance, prevails in Wales; this I conceive to be the fact. He also declares that, in his opinion, the powerful and inimitable reply of Dr. Campbell to Sir C. E. Smith, would, if translated, produce a deep impression on the minds of the most liberal sections of the Independents and Baptists; this I am not disposed to dispute; at the same time, I am prepared to assert, that there is no danger whatever that the Anti-state-church question will be laid aside, as the consequence of the present movement for union, as far as Wales is concerned. "Wales," as the writer of Sketches truly remarked, "is emphatically the land of Dissent, and the local habitation of Nonconformity." Entire voluntarism in religion is a fundamental principle in the constitution of

the Welsh newspaper alluded to by both of your correspondents. It declared itself at the commencement of its career, a decided antagonist to State-churchism, and has, hitherto, faithfully redeemed the pledge, according to the best of its ability. Its subscribers, at its first appearance, August, 1843, did not number 500; since that, they have increased to nearly 3,000, and are still increasing. A correspondent assured the editor, that every number is read by 50,000 of our countrymen, on the lowest computation; and it is chiefly admired by its readers generally, on account of its Anti-state-church character. I mention these things, merely to show what are the prevailing opinions and feelings of the reading portion of our countrymen on the subject.

The Evangelical Alliance will offer no temptation whatever to us in the principality to hold our peace on the subject of establishments. As far as North Wales is concerned, I may venture to assert, that no more than one or two clergymen of the Establishment will join the Alliance. It will be a union of Nonconformists. Our Welsh Calvinistic Methodist brethren, are at present as decided Nonconformists as the Independents and Baptists. Their *Quarterly Review*, most ably conducted by the Revs. L. Edwards, M.A., Bala, and R. Edwards, Mold, has declared in a most decisive tone against civil establishments of religion, and pledged itself to give no uncertain sound on the subject. Our Wesleyan brethren, also, are rapidly advancing in the same direction.

As regards the Evangelical Alliance in England, I cannot but feel the force of Dr. Campbell's objections, and being fearful of the results, which he on the one hand, and Mr. McNeile and Archbishop Whateley on the other, predict, still I hope better things; that it may be carried out in harmony, and without compromise. According to Dr. Campbell's own showing, had he been in our position he would have joined the Alliance—an alliance of Nonconformists. The movement among us can possibly do no harm. We may reasonably hope that it will accomplish much good, even to the cause of voluntary religion.

THE EDITOR OF THE WELSH NEWSPAPER.

CLAIRVOYANCE TESTED.—A gentleman of Plymouth having offered to give £5 to any charities in that town if a mesmeric clairvoyant could read with his eyes covered to the satisfaction of a committee of twelve gentlemen appointed to examine the case, a meeting took place at the house of Mr. E. Fry, 43, Union-street, for that purpose, on Wednesday morning last, the 4th inst., at ten o'clock. A youth named Laycock, aged fifteen years, was mesmerised by Mr. Fry, who then covered his eyes with twenty-three separate pieces of plaister, two of them being square pieces, fitting over the entire region of the eyes. A chairman and two scrutineers were appointed, who expressed their entire satisfaction that the eyes were effectually secured. The gentleman whose money was at stake, and who was extremely sceptical on the subject of mesmerism, then produced three papers, which had not been seen by any one previously in the room, and the mesmeriser having breathed upon them, they were handed to the boy, who read them quite correctly, and with considerable facility; he then made out the number and value of a £5 Bank of England note. The scrutineers declared the result to be perfectly satisfactory. Nine out of the twelve committee men did the same, and the money was accordingly handed over to the following charities:—the Devon and Cornwall Hospital, the Plymouth Eye Infirmary, the Plymouth Lying-in Institution.—*From a Correspondent*.

MEETING OF LIBERAL M.P.'S.—A very numerously attended meeting of Liberal members was held on Friday at Lord John Russell's house, in Chesham-place, to consider the course to be taken in the approaching discussions on Sir Robert Peel's proposals. We understand that Lord John Russell addressed the meeting, pointing out the danger to the measure that might arise from an amendment in committee for immediate repeal of the corn laws, which might be supported by the Protectionists, for the purpose of throwing a difficulty in Sir Robert Peel's way, and being carried by a majority combined of Free-traders and Protectionists, might cause Sir Robert Peel to throw up his measure. We are told that the most perfect unanimity prevailed as to the necessity of the Liberal party doing everything in their power to pass that part of Sir Robert Peel's measure which concerns corn as quickly as possible, and in thinking that, though immediate free-trade in corn would be preferable to its fulfilment in February, 1849, still it would not be right, under present circumstances, to risk the slightest delay in passing Sir Robert Peel's measure by the amendment for immediate repeal. The members began to assemble at twelve, and the meeting broke up shortly before one. Among those who attended were Lord Palmerston, Sir G. Grey, Mr. Labouchere, Mr. Macaulay, Mr. F. T. Baring, Mr. O'Connell, Sir William Molesworth, Mr. Bernal, Lord Marcus Hill, Mr. Milner Gibson, Mr. Strutt, Mr. Thorneley, Sir George Strickland, Mr. Pattison, Mr. J. O'Connell, Mr. Leader, the Earl of Shelburne, Sir T. Wilde, Mr. Tufnell, the O'Connor Don, Lord Harry Vane, Mr. Hayter, General Morrison, &c.—*Sun*.

EARLY CLOSING.—The Metropolitan Drapers' Association, the object of which body is to obtain an abridgment of the hours of business in trades generally, is actively exerting itself. The committee have now offered a prize of fifteen guineas, and another of five guineas, for the best and second best essays upon the evils of "Late Shopping," or rather upon the power of the public to remedy those evils, and upon its being both their duty and to their interest to exert that power. The adjudicators are men of the highest qualifications: they are the Rev. H. Melvill, the late popular minister of Camden Chapel, and now President of Haileybury College; J. T. Conquest, Esq., M.D., and Mr. Ambrose Moore, of Milk-street.

UNWONTED LIBERALITY.—The London house of Magniac, Jardine, and Co., have presented the clerks in their employ with life insurances for sums varying from £250 to £1,000 in the Provident Clerk's Association, and have intimated their intention of continuing to pay the annual premiums.

RISE IN THE PRICE OF POTATOES.—On Friday the price of potatoes advanced 6d., and on some kinds is per cwt. A pound of good potatoes cannot now be purchased under a 1d. and 1½d.; and for one pound of the best bread the charge is, with very few exceptions, 2½d. or 3d. to 10d. per four pound loaf, the price having advanced ½d. within the last two or three days.

THE MIRROR OF PARLIAMENT.

RAILWAY LEGISLATION.

In the House of Lords, on Thursday, the Earl of Dalhousie presented a series of resolutions which had been agreed to by the Select Committee appointed to consider the mode in which the application for Railway Bills should be dealt with. These resolutions were in substance that the Standing Order which prescribes the payment of a deposit of one-tenth on the capital subscribed, be suspended on such Railway Bills as shall commence in the House of Lords; that no bill be read a first time unless a deposit of one-twentieth be paid by the 6th of February; that no bill be read a third time unless an equal amount be again paid; and that no petition for a bill be received after the 23rd February.

On the same evening, a report was submitted from the same Committee to the Commons. For the purpose of facilitating business, and of creating early employment in Ireland, the report recommends that all the Irish Railway Bills should commence in the House of Lords; the Commons waiving their privileges as to money-clauses. Other bills, of a kind described, may also commence in the Lords.

These reports, in a series of resolutions, were taken into consideration by the respective Houses on Friday.

In the Lords, the resolutions sanctioning the deposit by instalments, were adopted, on the motion of the Earl of Dalhousie. Lord Montagu expressed his approval of the arrangement for facilitating the disposal of Irish railway bills, but strongly disapproved of the continuance of the standing order which requires railway deposits to be paid in money in place of Government securities.

Less unanimity was displayed in the Commons; but the resolutions were nevertheless agreed to without a division. Lord Granville Somerset having moved the consideration of the report, Mr. Fitzstephen French said he did not see any good reason for taking the Irish bills out of the ordinary course. If the English bills were sent to the House of Lords in the first instance, the arrangement would greatly facilitate the passing of Irish bills. The O'Connor Don said it was difficult to please everybody; but no doubt could exist as to the anxiety of the committee to meet the exigencies of Ireland. The letters which he continued to receive from that country assured him that the potato disease was on the increase. Suggestions were made by Mr. Aglionby and Mr. Ross, to the effect that a selection of bills should be made, and those only which could derive benefit from commencing in the House of Lords should be taken there. Mr. Bernal, Sir George Clerk, and Mr. Greene supported the recommendations of the committee.

ROMAN CATHOLIC DISABILITIES.

On Thursday, Mr. Watson moved for leave to bring in a bill for the further repeal of enactments imposing pains and penalties upon Roman Catholics on account of religion. He did not intend to go into the details of this bill at present, because the principal parts of the same measure brought in by him last year had received the sanction of the Criminal Law Commissioners, to whom it was remitted. But there was one part of the bill to which he wished to direct the particular attention of Sir Robert Inglis,—it was the repeal of certain enactments by which Roman Catholic clergymen, who had come to this country and placed themselves under monastic vows, were liable to severe punishment, even to transportation. These enactments were continued in the bill of 1829.

Sir James Graham would not offer any opposition to the introduction of the measure. The whole question, however, was in the hands of the Criminal Law Commissioners, who had framed a bill to repeal such statutes as were susceptible of a penal character. That bill had been introduced into the other House by the Lord Chancellor; and every effort would be made to pass it into a law as speedily as possible.

Sir Robert Inglis sarcastically advised Mr. Watson to leave the matter in the hands of ministers. Sir James Graham adopted as his own Mr. Watson's bill of last session—a bill to repeal the Act of Supremacy—a bill to enable Roman Catholic bishops to assume the sees of the prelates of the Established Church—a bill to legalise processions of a sect at a time when they prohibited processions of other persons, lest public hostility and disturbance should be provoked—a bill to repeal the Act for expelling the Jesuits! So far as he recollected, these were the provisions of the bill. They were comprehended under the five points he had stated; which five points were to be brought forward in that House with all the authority of a "united Cabinet!"

Sir James Graham denied that the Government had adopted Mr. Watson's bill of last session; and as to the Act of Supremacy, Sir Robert Inglis would see, when the bill introduced into the Lords reached the Commons, that it did not repeal that Act.

Lord John Manners held that the Church of England had a right to demand that her ancient landmarks should not be swept away, nor her bulwarks destroyed; but he could not think she could be benefited by retaining penalties as alien to the spirit of Christian charity as the Government that imposed was averse from the cruelty of enforcing them. No one would wish to put down the Cistercian monks, who devoted the whole of their time to the benefit of suffering humanity.

Mr. O'Connell alluded to the atrocities recently inflicted on the nuns of Minsk by authority of the Emperor of Russia. The monster who could commit such outrages was an object of loathing; it was not creditable to the Christians of Europe that some public demonstration had not been made to express the horror and detestation of all civilised Christendom against the monster and his satellites who had perpetrated such enormities.

Lord John Russell was not sure whether Parliament ought not to repeal altogether that part of the law which related to monastic orders, taking the same securities which they required from Protestant Dissenters, and enacting that the houses should be registered and visited.

Leave was given to bring in the bill.

THE MINISTERIAL SCHEME.

There was a crowded House on Monday night, on the occasion of the opening of the debate on the free-trade measures of Government. The first incident of interest was the appearance of Lord Morpeth, who took his seat as the member for the West Riding of Yorkshire. His entrance was the signal for loud and repeated cheering from the opposition. Then commenced the work of presenting petitions. On both sides there were a large number presented. Amongst those in favour of an immediate as well as a total repeal of the corn-laws, there were first, the Yorkshire petitions, presented by Lord Morpeth, 103 in number, with many thousand signatures.

Mr. Ferrand asked if the noble lord could assure the House that the signatures to these petitions were the free and unbiassed acts of the parties themselves, for he had been assured—

The Speaker informed Mr. Ferrand that he might ask a question, but could not make a speech.

Lord Morpeth, in reply to the question, declared that, to the best of his belief and the entireness of his conviction, the signatures were the free and unbiassed acts of the parties.

The petition from Lambeth had 72,000 signatures; from Edinburgh, 10,000; from Stockport, 9,000; from South Lancashire, 14,500; from Bath, 6,700; from Southwark, 14,600; from Finsbury, 83,600; from Westminster, 72,000; and from Dundee, 6,000. Some of the Protectionist petitions had from 6,000 to 10,000 signatures.

Before the commencement of the discussion, Sir Robert Peel rose to correct an error into which he had fallen, when, on a former evening, he answered Lord John Russell, as to the period when the remission of the corn duties shall take place. He then stated that the corn duties, like the practice adopted in the case of other duties, should be remitted from the day when the House received a report on the resolution affirming the reduction, taking the usual precaution against loss to the revenue in case the measure should not ultimately become law. But he now understood, that corn was an exception to the usual practice, and that in all former instances the duty had not been remitted until after the passing of the act. The Government would now adhere to the accustomed practice; but to obviate as much as possible the inconvenience to trade consequent upon delay, no other public Government business would be pressed until the corn-bill had passed that House.

On the question being put that the House should resolve itself into a committee of the whole House on the commercial propositions of the Government,

Mr. Philip Miles (Bristol) rose to move his announced amendment, that the House should resolve itself into committee on these propositions "that day six months." The question was one too comprehensive to be treated on mere party grounds; but as the majority in that House had been unquestionably elected on protective principles, he considered that they ought not to adopt the Government measures without a previous appeal to the country. There was undoubtedly a failure of the potato crop in Ireland, but no danger of a famine. When Sir Robert Peel proposed to open the ports, the price of wheat was only 56s. 2d., and he saw no sufficient reason in the condition of the country for the adoption of propositions so sweeping. He advocated only what was fair and just; nor could he be the enemy of any one interest, for he was equally engaged in commerce and agriculture. Moderate protection was due to the industry of Englishmen; and though he did not undervalue the responsibility of a minister, yet these incessant changes afforded no prospect of their cessation, while they shook all confidence in public men. The law of 1842 had worked well; under it Sir Robert Peel aimed at a price for the farmer of 58s.; he would like to know his opinion now of what constituted a sufficient price? If, indeed, he considered the change essential for the interests of the country, he would not blame him; but assuredly he could not follow him, nor consent to change his opinions so easily. With foreign markets glutted, and India and China flooded with our goods, he could not take the extent of our exports as a measure of our prosperity; and he anticipated from the removal of protection, severe agricultural distress, lower wages, and a state of suffering, first felt by the lower before it reached the higher classes. Henceforth, free-trade must be taken as the guiding principle of the Government, and under its application what was to become of our shipping interest, our navigation laws, and our reciprocity treaties? Would it even repress agitation? Were these measures passed, would the League dissolve, and "retire into private life?" If it did, other combinations would arise to effect other changes. The man engaged in agriculture, with his operations exposed to every vicissitude of the weather, did not stand in the same position as the manufacturer, who could carry on his business sheltered and uninterrupted. If free-trade were to be adopted, of what use were our colonies?—they also must enjoy the benefit of its application; their bonds must be broken, and our colonists be permitted to trade as freely with foreigners as ourselves. Believing that the whole scheme was fraught with danger, and that the "compensations" offered to the agricultural interest were wholly insufficient, he would continue to advocate protection to native industry; and with this view he proposed his amendment.

Sir William Heathcote, in seconding the amendment, disclaimed the imputation of political dishonesty as applied to the Government, but thought that their comprehensive scheme, as it was termed, was not based on nature or reason, and that it ought not to have been brought forward without an appeal to the country. Regarding the scheme of the Government as adverse to both British and Colonial interests, he would join the opposition to it; and if the result were the ejection of the Ministry, on them, and not on the party which usually supported them, be the responsibility.

Mr. Lascelles (speaking from behind the Treasury

bench) reminded the House that he had, from conviction, given a cordial vote in favour of the commercial propositions of the Whig government, brought forward before the last general election; and having watched and supported the policy of the present Government, he denied that there had been any other change in its conduct than what had been indicated by the measures brought forward in 1842. In gradually breaking up a system injurious to the whole general interests of the country, he considered Sir Robert Peel deserving of the gratitude of his country.

Lord Norreys was compelled to declare that, though he had long been a supporter of Sir Robert Peel, he could not place any confidence in him for the future, and should therefore support the amendment. If this measure were carried, it would be carried not from any conviction of its wisdom or its necessity, but from a wish of many Conservative members, who considered it inevitable, to have it settled by Sir R. Peel rather than by Lord J. Russell.

Mr. A. B. Cochrane cordially supported the present proposition as calculated to benefit all classes of her Majesty's subjects.

Mr. Deedes and Sir J. Walsh, spoke in favour of the amendment. The latter gentleman declared, that the Anti-corn-law League was the second joint-stock company in agitation which had produced a desperate effect on the policy of the country. He called on hon. members to read the history of the first of those joint-stock companies, and then to solve the problem, How many of those associations it would take to crush the independence of Parliament and to accomplish the dismemberment of the empire?

Mr. B. Hope, in supporting the amendment, compared Sir R. Peel to Cardinal Wolsey:—

There was a very powerful minister who, in times when the House of Commons had not attained its present position, swayed his Sovereign with as potent an influence as that exercised by the right honourable baronet in that house; and that minister was said to have used the expression, *Ego et rex meus*. The right honourable baronet might with equal propriety use the expression, "I and my party" [hear]. In 1841 honourable members were elected upon strong Protectionist principles. Now so much were they expected to follow their leader, that they were brought down to that House, as they had been last Tuesday week, without the common courtesy which always accompanied measures of much less importance—of having some inkling of the nature of the measure to be proposed [hear, hear]. He (Mr. Hope) had been one of the members who, in 1841, knew something of what was to be brought forward, but now a total change in the commercial system which had prevailed for centuries was considered a bubble—a mere fleabite [laughter]—a nothing greater than a turnpike bill. Such a policy was truly Wolseyan.

Lord Sandon startled the House by declaring, that though he disapproved of the scheme proposed by her Majesty's Government, he had made up his mind to vote in favour of it:—

There might have been different opinions with respect to free-trade; but no matter what discrepancy of feeling might exist, this must be admitted on all hands, that the country must be governed. It was impossible that the present system of agitation could continue. It was convulsing society in these countries, and the sooner the question which gave rise to it was settled the better [hear, hear]. The present state of things could not continue without great and manifest injury to the country, for the agitation of this question disarranged our social system, and inevitably gave rise to bitterness of feeling. His friends around him might vote as they pleased, but their votes would not work salvation for the corn-laws [hear, hear, and loud cheers]. Abolished it must be, and the only question now was, how was it to be done [hear, hear]? He was of opinion that the measure now contemplated was a rash and perilous one—he knew that much individual misery must result from it; but he did not anticipate a great national calamity [hear, hear]. He had faith in the country, and he was sure that the vessel of the state would gradually right herself, and escape the breakers [hear, hear, and cheers]. In the abstract he was for protection, but having regard to the present circumstances of the country, and bearing in mind that the corn-laws, however much to be commended, did not involve any question of faith or morals, he felt himself quite at liberty to take, in reference to this subject, whatever course he considered most conducive to the interests of the English people [hear, hear, and cheers].

Lord J. Russell believed that he was the first member who had risen on his side of the House on the important question now before them; and while he should give his vote on the same side with the noble Lord who had just addressed them, he could say that he should do it with better heart and hope than that noble Lord. He was not at all terrified by an argument which appeared quite conclusive on the other side—namely, that protection was a system of legislation which had been adopted in England for centuries, and that we were about to destroy it. We had destroyed many other systems which had been injurious to the country, though they had been defended by the prescriptive usage of centuries; and he hoped that hereafter, we should be proud of having destroyed this system, and of having participated in founding instead of it a newer and better state of things. Admitting that the transition from protection to free-trade could not be made without some suffering, he proceeded to discuss the mode in which Sir R. Peel had treated the question. He thought that Sir Robert had not laid the grounds for his measure boldly and broadly enough in point of time. Sir Robert might have quoted several measures of Mr. Huskisson, with respect to raw silk, French gloves, and several other articles, to show the benefit of removing prohibitory, and of relaxing protective duties. He (Lord John Russell) would not enter into any criticism at present on the reductions in the commercial and manufacturing articles contained in the new tariff proposed by Sir Robert Peel, but would confine his observations to his plan for getting rid altogether of the corn duties at the expiration of three years:—

Sir, I wish, considering the plan of the right honourable gentleman as a great measure—considering it as a measure that is to lay the foundation for a completely new principle with regard to commercial legislation, and that principle being neither to foster one trade or the other—I wish, I say, that you will neither attempt to promote the agriculturists or the manufacturer, but that you will leave them to flourish or to fade, according to the energies or skill of the people of the country [cheers]. Believing that principle is a sound

principle, I am prepared to give every support I can to the plan brought forward by the right honourable gentleman [loud cheers]. But, Sir, I think it incumbent upon me to say, that with regard to the mode that he has introduced of having a new system of corn duties for three years, that the opinion which I had formed in the month of December last has been more and more strengthened by everything I have heard since the right honourable gentleman made his plan public in this house [cheers]. I hear, from various parts of the country—from Devonshire and other counties, also from various parts of Scotland, and the midland counties of England—that the farmers who have been consulted on this subject say, If we are to have a system of free-trade instead of a system of protection, let us know what that system is to be at once [hear, hear]. It would be better to have the whole duty immediately repealed than to take the chance of this new corn-law which you proposed, as intended for our benefit. In the first place, I think the farming tenant will be better able to arrange with his landlord the particular sum he will have to pay. He knows at once the state of the law, and would not have to wait until February, 1849, to take the chance of what may then happen. In the next place, I think there may be some danger to the farmer, according as the season may be in 1848, and which might lead to a reduction of prices in the beginning of 1849 [hear, hear]. I think in the next place, and I have always thought, that if there be danger of competition to the English farmer, it will be far greater after the lapse of two or three years than it is at the present moment. It so happens in the present year, whether it be owing or not to bad harvests in some of the countries of Europe, there is but little stock of corn remaining, and there was no great reason to think that there was a great stock even in the United States of America [hear]. The way in which the immediate decrease of duty had been encountered in the market was a proof that there would be no great danger at the present moment [hear, hear]; but if there be any danger to encounter it will be when the people of the continent of Europe and the United States of America shall have preparations made—ground cultivated and seed sown, with a view to send in a large supply at the very moment that the duty is to cease [hear, hear]. It is as if the right honourable gentleman were to furnish the farmer with a great coat, provided he only wore it in summer, and took it off when Christmas arrived [cheers and laughter]. It is a provision that may expose the agriculture of this country to panic and danger that it would not otherwise incur. I hope, therefore, that the right hon. gentleman will reconsider this part of his plan. But, as I have already said, I wish the plan of the right honourable gentleman to succeed. I wish all his measures, with respect to corn, successful in this and the other House of Parliament; and no vote of mine shall tend in the least to endanger such a measure [loud cheers]. Therefore, if when we come into committee, the right honourable gentleman tells me that he has reconsidered the subject—that he has considered the representations that have been made from various parts of the country, but, on the whole, thinks the delay of three years, and the duty imposed in the meantime, are essential parts of his plan, I, for my part, shall go out with the right honourable gentleman into the same lobby [loud cheering].

He then made some comments on the minor details of Sir Robert's scheme, and concluded by drawing a contrast between the disinterested support which the Whigs were now giving to the free-trade measures of a Tory Government, and the factious opposition which the Tories gave to the same measures when proposed by a Whig Government.

Sir R. INGLES congratulated Lord John Russell on the gallantry with which he had come to the rescue of the Ministry after nine gentlemen had risen one after another on the Ministerial benches to direct their fire, not against a common enemy, but against each other. After arguing at some length against Sir R. Peel's plan, as unnecessary, he stated his reasons for doubting the right hon. baronet's claim to the character of a great statesman:—

Sir R. Peel had the largest majority in that House which any Government had had since 1834, and the party which supported him was a party upon which he might have looked with satisfaction; it was a party which looked up to him with entire confidence, and he (Sir R. Ingles) only regretted that the party which supported the right honourable baronet had not at an earlier period been made acquainted with the views which he (Sir R. Peel) now entertained ["Hear, hear," from Colonel Sibthorp, and loud laughter]. Whatever his opinion might be as to the propriety of introducing such a measure as that which his right honourable friend had brought forward, he would do him the justice to say that he believed that nothing but the strongest conviction, and an imperious sense of duty, could have induced him to bring forward the proposition which he had laid on the table of the House [hear, hear]. His right honourable friend would forgive him, however, for saying, that he doubted the wisdom of the course he had now adopted. If the proposition which he now made were the proposition of a great and wise statesman, what then were they to say of all his former propositions, and what were they to think of all his former views [cheers from some county members]? If the course he now took were the correct one, was he prepared to say that his former propositions were not those of a statesman, or of one who was sensible to the wants and real interests of his country? He would say, therefore, and he hoped he could say it without offence, that it was impossible for any man to witness such change, without questioning the claim of such a statesman to guide the destinies of this great country [cheers from the Protectionists]. The suddenness of the change which took place in the opinions of the right honourable baronet was such, that there was no security to those who supported him that he would not speedily change his opinions again [renewed cheers from the Protectionist members]. That formed a considerable difference between the right honourable baronet and the noble lord the member for the city of London [hear, hear]. He was aware that some persons looked upon the noble lord, the member for London, as if he were an ogre [laughter], and imagined that there was nothing too bad for him to do [renewed laughter]; but all he would say was, that he preferred an honest enemy, who would say what he meant to do, than one—it was not for him to say an enemy [a laugh]—than one who would not at once take that open course. Why, then, was this measure brought forward? *Quia non movere*, was a good motto. Let well alone. If we were well, why take physic and die? [cheers from some county members].

Captain FITZMAURICE followed on the same side, in a speech in which he dwelt largely on the inconsistency of Sir R. Peel with respect to the corn-laws. How could the farmers invest capital in the soil, when the highest in the land were every six months changing their opinions on that law which fixed the farmers' destiny? It mattered little whether a man was put to death by the insertion of ten thousand needles in his

body, or by one good thrust with a sword. The farmers, who had placed Sir Robert Peel in power, might now say,

"Blow, ye wintry winds;
Ye are not half so rude
As man's ingratitude."

Mr. S. HERBERT frankly avowed his opinion, that the law of 1842, when it was first tested by adverse circumstances, had failed—*absolutely failed* of its object. Seeing that the law had failed, that food in the country was deficient, not only in quantity but in quality, that the disease of the potato was not peculiar to this country, that all other nations had opened their ports for the importation of grain, and that some of them from which we drew our supplies had closed them against us, he had agreed with the Government in thinking that it was necessary that some measures should be taken to relieve the distress which was fast approaching. He had made his change of opinion slowly, deliberately, reluctantly, honestly, and he called upon the House to do the same. He called upon it to repair the greatest error that ever had been committed by human legislation—he meant the act of 1815—and to accede to the proposals of Government, which were intended to join in one common bond of union the agricultural and commercial classes.

On the motion of Mr. S. O'BRIEN the debate was adjourned to Tuesday.

MISCELLANEOUS.

BONE-CRUSHING IN WORKHOUSES.—From an explanation given on Wednesday by Sir JAMES GRAHAM, it appears that the poor-law commissioners have issued an order prohibiting bone-crushing in workhouses; the order to take effect from the 1st of January. In nine cases, where the circumstances are peculiar, Sir James has suspended the operation of the order for three months.

COURTS OF REQUESTS.—In reply to Mr. CAMPBELL, on Wednesday, Sir JAMES GRAHAM stated that inquiries were making under the auspices of the Privy Council with the view of enabling the Government to introduce a supplementary bill extending over the whole of England Courts of Requests having jurisdiction up to £20.

NEW WRITS were ordered, on Thursday, for Buckingham, in the room of Sir Thomas Fremantle, and for Dorsetshire, in the room of Lord Ashley and Mr. H. C. Sturt; and, on Friday, for East Suffolk, in the room of Lord Henniker; all of whom have resigned.

THE PREMIER'S SCHEME.—On Thursday, in answer to Mr. PATTISON, Sir ROBERT PEEL said that with respect to the contemplated reduction of duties, the Government intended that the remission on each class should take effect from the day that the House affirmed a resolution to that effect, taking of course the usual security against loss in case the measure did not ultimately become law. Corn would be dealt with in the same way.

FOREIGN COMMERCIAL RELATIONS.—In the House of Commons on Thursday, questions were put to Sir R. PEEL to elicit information as to the state of commercial relations between England and Spain and the Brazils. Dr. BOWRING asked if any information had been received from the Spanish Government of their intention to visit the commerce of England with hostile measures, in consequence of the unfavourable position in which Spanish colonial sugars are placed in the existing tariff? Sir ROBERT PEEL said, that no intimation of the kind had been received; but it would be seen from papers in possession of the House, that the Spanish Government has reserved to itself the power of acting on principles unfavourable to British commerce. So far, however, from indicating any intention to act upon that power, the following friendly expressions were recently made use of by M. Martinez de la Rosa.

Our motto is, "Good-will towards all, friendship with some, special intimacy with none." As far as England is concerned, it has rarely happened that our relations with that country have been more frank, more friendly, and more satisfactory, than they are at this day. The Spanish Government has received, on various recent occasions, proofs of the confidence which England places in our probity and good faith.

In reply to a question from Lord JOHN RUSSELL, as to the state of the correspondence with Spain relative to the sugars of Cuba, Sir ROBERT PEEL stated, that a letter had passed on each side; and copies would be submitted to the House before the discussion on the sugar duties.—Mr. HUTT inquired whether the Government intended to repeal any part of the Brazilian Slave-trade Act of last session? Sir JAMES GRAHAM said, that no such intention existed.—In reference to the same subject, Sir ROBERT PEEL read an extract from a despatch forwarded by Lord Aberdeen to the British Minister, directing him to assure the Brazilian Government, that nothing could afford the English Government greater pleasure than to find themselves relieved from the necessity of enforcing the act they were about to propose [the bill of last session], by the adoption of another treaty, similar either to that concluded between Great Britain and Spain in 1835, or to that between Great Britain and Portugal of 1842.—On Friday, Sir ROBERT PEEL gave a reply to Mr. LABOUCHERE's question, put on the previous evening, as to our commercial relations with the Brazils. The reply was, that the Brazilian Government had not acted upon the power it possessed of imposing discriminating duties unfavourable to England; nor had intimation been given of any intention to do so.

RELIEF OF THE POOR IN IRELAND.—In the House of Lords, on Friday evening, Lord CLANCARTY moved for a select committee to inquire into the laws relating to the relief of the destitute poor in Ireland, and also to inquire into the operation of the medical charities in Ireland, which are wholly or partially supported by grants from the county cess. After a few observations from Lord BROUGHAM and the Duke of WELLINGTON, the committee was nominated.

THE STATE OF IRELAND.—On Friday, Mr. O'CONNELL, having been informed by Sir JAMES GRAHAM that important official information from Ireland was about to be produced, postponed till Wednesday (this day) his motion on the state of famine and distress in that country.

NOMINATION BOROUGH.—Mr. COLLETT (Athlone), amid some laughter, gave notice of a motion for an inquiry into the peculiar circumstances connected with the representation of such boroughs as Newark and Buckingham, and for an investigation into the mode in which presumed election nomination is exercised by individuals.

AMENDMENT OF THE CRIMINAL LAW.—Lord DENMAN has given notice in the Lords, that it is his intention to re-introduce the bill which he had the honour of introducing last year, but which had been lost owing to some accident in the other House, for altering the law relating to trials for felony, by giving the Court power of mitigating the extreme penalties in certain cases.

BURDENS ON REAL PROPERTY.—Lord BEAUMONT has given notice that he will, some day this week, move for the appointment of a committee to inquire into the burdens affecting real property.

THE PUBLIC WORKS (IRELAND) BILL was read a second time in the House of Lords on Monday, on the motion of the Earl St. Germans, after a brief debate, shared in by Lord Monteagle, the Duke of Wellington, Lord Clifford, the Earl of Devon, the Earl of Roden, the Earl of Mountcashel, and Lord Campbell. The urgency of the state of Ireland, owing to the failure of the potato crop, and the necessity of providing employment for the people, was admitted by the different speakers.

THE GOVERNMENT MEASURE.—On Monday night one or two notices of motion on this subject were given; one by Mr. O. Stanley, to the effect that, in the committee on the customs and corn importation, he would move that, in lieu of the duties to be proposed, a fixed duty of 5s. on wheat, of 2s. 6d. on barley, and of 2s. on oats, be substituted; a second, by Mr. M. Milnes, for expunging all the words relating to the cessation of duties on corn in 1849; and a third, by Captain Polhill, to the effect that, if the measure passes, the amount of such duties, as received, shall be appropriated as a fund to relieve or compensate such tenant-farmers of the United Kingdom now subjected to certain rents, burdens, covenants, and obligations, entered into under the present scale of duties, who may prove before a select committee of this House that they have been ruined, impoverished, or deeply injured by the lessening of the protection they now possess [laughter from the Opposition].

FACTORY SCHOOLS.—On Monday night Mr. BRIGHT asked Sir James Graham a question founded upon the report of the factory inspectors, and regarding the distribution of the money for factory schools. It appeared that Mr. Horner had given £150 to schools connected with the established church, and only £50 to the British Society's and Dissenters' schools. Mr. Saunders, another inspector, had given £270 to Church of England schools, and £35 to Dissenting schools. His question was, whether it was not the intention of the act that the money should be distributed freely, fairly, and equally, among the various schools where factory children were educated? Sir James Graham replied:—

That it was no doubt the intention of the act that the money should be distributed equally and without favour [cheers]. His instructions to the factory inspectors had been direct and positive, that the spirit of the act should be carried into execution, and that sums should be apportioned with reference to the wants of the schools and to nothing else. In justice to Mr. Horner, he must add, that he believed he was himself a member of the British and Foreign School Society, so that Mr. Horner's prejudices, if any, would be in their favour [hear, hear]. Perhaps he might be allowed to read to the house Mr. Horner's own account of what he had done. Mr. Horner denied that he had given any preference to the national schools, and expressed his surprise that the applications from other schools had not been more frequent, and the sums he had given to them arose out of voluntary offers on his part. He had made inquiries as to Roman Catholic schools, and he had been informed that they were not attended by a single factory child. He did not think that the number of children in a school ought to form the rule, but the wants of the school [cheers]. The inspectors would be guided by the merits of the schools, and would report on their wants, and the sum required in each particular case without reference to numbers.

COMPRESSED AIR ENGINE.—We have seen the prospectus of a company, which has been formed for the purpose of obtaining from Mr. Parsley, the patentee, the benefit of the patent right of his invention in Great Britain and the colonies, by means of licenses for its use. The advantages of this invention are, it is said, a great reduction in the cost of engines, and in all expenses in working them; the absence of smoke, fire, and steam, and all danger from bursting boilers, &c. The engines are worked by means of condensed air, and can be filled at a terminus in one minute. This power can be applied with ease and certainty by the engineer. The locomotive carriage consists of a pair of cylinders and pistons, acting on the driving wheels in the usual manner; behind there is a reservoir of compressed air, and in front is a vessel called a receiver, to which is attached a self-acting regulator, by which means as much power is carried by the engines as will propel it and a train any distance. The invention has excited much interest, and has been favourably noticed by scientific journals. A working model is exhibited daily, at 5, Pall Mall East London. If an opinion can be formed from the performances of the model as to what an actual machine on a large scale can accomplish, it will be an immense gain to science and the public.

MILITARY AND MORALITY.—When a detachment of the foot soldiers left Bradford Moor barracks for Ireland, a short time ago, they were followed the length of Liverpool by a number of poor deluded girls whom they had seduced in this town. There they were abandoned by their gallant companions, and had to wend their way back to Bradford in shame and sorrow.—*Bradford Observer.*

THE CANTERBURY BRANCH of the South-Eastern line, from Ashford to Canterbury, was opened on Friday, when a large party of the directors and their friends dined together in the Corn-exchange.

FOREIGN INTELLIGENCE.

INDIA.

WAR WITH THE SIKHS.

The Bombay mail of the 3rd of January has brought important intelligence from the North-west Provinces of India, the Sikhs having crossed the Sutlej, thus precipitating the war which has for some time been impending.

On the 2nd December the Governor-general arrived at Umballah, where he remained until the 7th, busy in reviewing the troops; and on that day he moved out of the fort, as if to proceed to Ferozepore. On the 8th he rode from his camp, sixteen miles distance, to Loodiana, to inspect the troops. On the 9th the determination of the Sikh soldiery to cross the Sutlej became known, and orders were issued for the assembly of the army, and the Vakeel of the Lahore Government was desired to retire from the Company's territories. On the 13th, the Governor-general issued a proclamation, in which, after describing the friendly relations which have subsisted between the British Government and that of the Punjab since the year 1809, and adverting to the disorganised state of the Lahore Government during the last two years, he states the reasons which had induced him to assemble a strong force on the British frontier, and that in consequence of the Sikh force having invaded the British territories, war was declared against them. This proclamation was issued on the 13th, and on the 17th the Governor-general's camp was at Bussean, within thirty-seven miles of the Sikhs. The Commander-in-chief was stationed on that day within five miles of the Governor-general's camp.

On the 12th 10,000 Sikhs, with twenty-seven guns, crossed the river by a ford about twelve miles above Ferozepore; and on the 13th they were about seven miles from it, still crossing men and guns by a bridge of boats. On the 22nd it was known that the Lahore troops, to the number of 30,000, with seventy guns, had crossed the river Sutlej, and had taken up such a position as would enable them to intercept the Ferozepore.

In the mean time the British army was concentrating; it was composed of eleven complete troops of horse artillery, eleven companies of foot artillery, with four light field batteries, a twelve-pounder elephant battery of thirteen guns, fourteen twenty-four pounders, eight howitzers and mortars preparing; three European with seven native light cavalry regiments, including the body guard; four complete corps, and a wing of the 5th Irregular Cavalry; nine European and twenty-five native regiments of infantry, and almost the whole corps of Bengal sappers and miners. There were other corps in movement to reinforce the army from Scinde and elsewhere.

The latest intelligence from Bombay was, that a battle was fought on the 21st at Ferozepore, which lasted for three days. In this battle the Governor-general led the centre, the Commander-in-chief the right, and Sir John Littler the left. The centre and right held their ground well; the left was hard pressed. The troops had stormed one position, and were preparing to attack the other when the dispatch left. The slaughter was very great. The Sikhs lost sixty-five guns. The British occupied the Sikh camp. No doubts were entertained but the enemy would shortly be driven across the Sutlej.

News of an unfinished engagement, of so much obstinacy, naturally created much anxiety at Bombay. The Governor of that presidency was despatching reinforcements to the north; and Sir Charles Napier, the Governor of Scinde, was preparing to march upon the Sutlej without delay. On the other hand, it was said that the chief of Multan, an ally of the Sikhs, was marching with 30,000 men to their support. It will be a fortnight before further intelligence can be received from the East; and that intelligence will be awaited with solicitude.

The *Times* throws the following light upon the character and habits of the Sikhs:—

The Sikhs follow the tenets of Nunok, who four centuries ago formed a religion from Hindooism and Mohamedanism, which suited the taste of the men of Lahore. Guided by their "Gooroos," or priests, they fought and gained considerable territories in the Punjab or Country of the Five Rivers. Some of the troops, and especially those of Rajpoot descent, assumed the appellation of Singhs, or Lions. Runjeet Singh, by his abilities, succeeded in placing himself at their head. He died in June, 1839; since which time, three of his successors have been assassinated. Dhu-leep Singh is but a boy, and the troops refuse to obey his feeble sceptre. The Singhs resemble in a great measure the Janissaries at Constantinople; and they too assume the right of selecting their own rulers. The Akhalees are a tribe of the wildest fanatics, who look upon all men as objects of hatred, unless those who profess the Sikh faith. The Sikh troops are stated to amount in number to about 70,000 men, collected from the bravest of the land; for, like the Janissaries, they admit recruits of all classes, on those recruits adopting their tenets.

It deserves mention that the above important news has arrived from Alexandria by the new route of Trieste, projected by Lieutenant Waghorn; and that the Austrian Government, in its anxiety to establish that route, provided the steamer from Alexandria, as well as the courier from Trieste. The French Government having furnished the *Morning Herald* exclusively with the despatches brought on a recent occasion through France, the Austrian Government has furnished the despatches brought by its intervention exclusively to the *Times*.

Bombay papers quoted in the *Osservatore Triestino* say, "It is believed that the Sikh forces were compelled to recross the Sutlej, on the 24th December," the day following the battle. They had therefore been repulsed.

THE WEST INDIA MAIL.

Accounts from Mexico to the 30th of December, bring intelligence of a new revolution. General Paredes, with his division, 7,000 strong, pronounced on the 15th ult. at San Luis Potosi, and marched against Mexico on the 21st for the avowed purpose of overturning the present Government, and calling a National Convention to establish whatever government it might think fit. Paredes and his division arrived on

the 29th in the immediate vicinity of the capital. The Government prepared to resist in an energetic manner. They appointed General Bustamante Commander-in-chief, armed 3,000 Civicos, or national guard, barricaded the town, cut trenches in all the roads, declared the city in a state of siege, and called out the male population between the ages of sixteen and sixty. The garrisons of the fort of San Juan de Ulloa, Vera Cruz, Jalapa, Guanajuato, Guadalajara, Zacatecas, pronounced in favour of Paredes, but the civil authorities in all those places and in several other towns issued manifestoes in favour of the Government. Several arrests were made, and the archbishop was constituted a prisoner in his palace at Tacubaya.

By the latest accounts we learn that the whole of the garrison has pronounced in favour of Paredes, and that the Government of Herrera may be considered at an end. The city was perfectly quiet, and not a shot fired.

Mr. Slidell, the new Minister of the United States, has not been received by the Government, under the plea that Mexico had agreed to accept a minister *ad hoc* for the regulation of the affairs of Texas, and not an envoy for general purposes. Mr. Slidell has written a very angry note, and retires to Jalapa, there to await instructions from his Government.

The Jamaica Legislature was adjourned on the 31st of December, with a speech from Lord Elgin. Thirty-three bills were passed, among which were two for the extension of the Kingston railroad to Old Harbour, and for the formation of a central one through St. Thomas-in-the-Vale to Port Maria.

We have intelligence from Hayti, that the French Consul-General had struck his consular flag at Port-au-Prince, and repaired on board the French frigate *Thetis*, in consequence of the Vice-consul, Dubiac, at Cape Haytian, having been expelled the country by the Haytian Government for entering into political intrigues tending to endanger the tranquillity of the country.

The Pacific dates are up to the 2nd of December. The republics in this quarter were tranquil, with the exception of the Ecuador, which had not quite recovered from its late political convulsions. In Central America, lying to the north of the Isthmus, three of the five republics composing that group had been for some months in confusion, from a war between two of them, Salvador and Honduras, but their differences were about to be arranged.

FRANCE.

In our last number we briefly noticed the failure of an attempt on the part of M. Berryer, and the opposition, to engraft on the address to the King a paragraph declaring that, in the event of a conflict between two great nations, France would reserve to herself the privilege of protecting the principles of public law, the liberty of the seas, and the dignity of international relations. In this he was supported by M. Thiers. M. Guizot's reply was eminently pacific, and worthy of a more specific notice. He said, that next to the duty of looking to the practical interests of France, the hope of contributing something of the influence of his country to the cause of peace abroad was uppermost in his mind:—

"Nobody can doubt," said he, "that the English Government is desirous of peace with the United States. It desires peace sincerely, and for the best reasons; and I am convinced that it will do all that is compatible with national honour to maintain it. There is, therefore, no great necessity to impress upon the English Government the claims of peace, since, as far as honour will allow, it is resolved to adhere to them. The case is not the same in the United States. There you may read every day of a great party—a powerful, active, and a burning party—which will have no peace, but which is driving at war, and proclaims war. By the side of this party is another, which is highly respectable, not without power, and desirous of peace. Even in the democratic party some are for peace, others for war; and motions are made in the American Chambers on both sides. I do not hesitate to say that I have wished by the announcement of our neutral policy to strengthen the hands of the friends of peace in America. I am convinced that peace is the right thing for all of us, for England as well as for the United States. I sincerely desire the maintenance of it. I have sought to give strength to the peace party; I have given it the right to say that the United States must not reckon on dragging France after them into a war."

In spite of all the efforts of the two leading speakers of the Opposition, M. Thiers and M. Berryer, upon a subject eminently suited to their own powers and the prejudices of their audience, these sound and dignified views of the ministry were applauded by the Chamber of Deputies, and finally sanctioned by a majority of 78.

The whole of the address was adopted on Friday by the Chamber of Deputies, when a majority appeared in favour of the ministry of 93; the numbers voting being 232 for the address, and 141 against it. This is the largest majority that the Ministry has yet obtained, and it appears to have astonished the Opposition papers. The address was presented to the King at the Tuilleries on Saturday night, to which his Majesty returned a most gracious answer.

The expedition to Madagascar is considered as completely abandoned.

From Algeria we learn, that the indomitable Emir was harassing the French with a success perfectly marvellous. The accounts from Setif, of the 20th of Jan., state, that "Abd-el-Kader has fallen upon us like a thunderbolt!"

A return published in the *Messenger* declares the number of troops of the division of General Levasseur which perished in the snow to amount to 260 men, besides upwards of 500 who are yet confined to the hospital, of whom the medical men think that at least one-fifth will not survive, and a great number more will be maimed and useless.

FOREIGN MISCELLANY.

THE SWEDISH GOVERNMENT, in order to put a stop to the increasing progress of drunkenness in Norway, has appointed a missionary for each of the four provinces of that kingdom, to travel through them preaching forbearance from strong liquors, and promoting the establishment and extension of temperance societies. Compensation is again offered to all such distillers as shall

resign their licenses for making brandy, and entirely relinquish their business.

THE KING OF PRUSSIA has issued an order to admit all sorts of grain duty free into the Rhenish provinces. The accounts from these provinces, as well as from Belgium, are quoted of a gloomy character, and no doubts are entertained by them, "that a distressing scarcity of food will be experienced, both in Holland and Belgium, in the course of this spring."

A VIENNA journal of the 24th ult. states, that a sharp shock of earthquake, which lasted two seconds, but did no damage, was felt in that city on the preceding day.

ITALY.—Letters from Leghorn, of the 25th January, state that the Pontifical Government apprehended another movement in Romagna. The political prisoners confined at Civita Castellana having attempted to escape, the guards were obliged to make use of their arms, and killed and wounded several of them. At Imola, a detachment of carabinieri and Swiss soldiers having met in the streets a band of young men singing patriotic songs, fired upon them, and killed two and wounded some others. Much agitation had prevailed at Forli since the murder of a commissary of police in that town.

VISIT OF THE IMPERIAL COMMISSIONER KEYING TO HONG KONG.—The *China Mail* of the 27th November reports a visit paid by Keying, the Imperial Commissioner, with his suite, to Hong Kong; he arrived on the 20th November, and remained four days. Suitable accommodation was provided for him in the Queen's-road; Messrs. D. and M. Rustonjee having placed their residence at the service of the Government. Besides a grave and private conference, banquets were given by the Governor and Major-general D'Aguilar; and a return was made by the Commissioner. At the dinner given by the Major-general, the most notable thing was Keying's behaviour, which made a very favourable impression:—

Nothing could exceed the affability and good humour of Keying, accompanied by the highest tact and good breeding. He was jovial at dinner, but without excess; and, after having volunteered a Manchow Tartar song, which he gave with great spirit, the company adjourned to the drawing-room; where a party, consisting of the ladies of the garrison, with most of the naval and military officers and civil residents, had assembled. Keying went the round of the room with the utmost blandness; offering his hand to each of the ladies, and distinguishing one or two of them by little presents of purses or rosaries taken from his person. There was one little girl in particular, about seven years of age, in whom Keying seemed much interested; and it was delightful to witness the good nature and benevolence of his manner when he took her upon his knee to caress her, and then placed an ornament about her neck. His fine Tartar head and person, grouped with the infant beauty of the little stranger, formed quite a picture. Keying retired shortly after eleven o'clock; but not till he had asked the General, with characteristic good nature, if he wished him to remain any longer, evidently desirous not to disappoint the guests, who crowded round him with a mingled feeling of respect and curiosity. There was another instance of high breeding worthy of being recorded. A married lady, who was sitting near him, attracted a good deal of his attention; and having desired one of his attendants to bring him a silk handkerchief, he presented it to her, and begged he might retain her own in exchange for it. The lady was momentarily embarrassed; and Keying seeing this, said "he hoped he had done nothing contrary to our usages of propriety;" an apology which was immediately appreciated and understood.

The Commissioner's banquet was full of strange incidents for the English. The succession of soups alone occupied nearly three hours, the whole dinner more than four hours. Toasts were given, and duly soaked in vast quantities of wine:—

The first was, "The Queen of England and the Emperor of China;" which was drunk with tremendous applause, the Chinese being especially vociferous, huzzaing, clapping their hands, and beating the table in the most approved English public-dinner fashion; the band in the adjoining room striking up what we presume was an appropriate air, but which sounded to our ears not unlike a Highland pibroch. A few other toasts followed; among the rest, the King of the French and the King of Sweden, each of whom had a subject among the guests; and Keying then called upon the Governor for a song, as a condition to giving one himself; which he afterwards did, and very well too, and joined lustily in the applause with which it was received. Twang-tsyeh-shing gave us two songs; the Emperor's son-in-law excused himself on account of a hoarseness, brought on doubtless by the unwonted exercise of his lungs during the visit; and an attendant Tartar, a descendant of Genghis-Khan, we were told, chanted a wild lilt, having many of the characteristics of an old Scottish or Irish air. On the part of the English guests, besides the Governor, songs were sung by the Major-General, the Chief Justice, the Honourable Frederick Bruce, and Mr. Shortrede." [According to an account which recently appeared in the same paper, the Chinese musical scale resembles our diatonic scale, except that it omits the third and seventh notes.]

DREADFUL SHIPWRECK.—LOSS OF THE CATARAGUI EMIGRANT SHIP.—FOUR HUNDRED AND FOURTEEN LIVES LOST.—Intelligence has just reached Lloyd's of the wreck of the Cataragui, Captain C. M. Finlay, which sailed from Liverpool on the 29th of April, with 369 emigrants, and a crew (including two doctors, M. C. Carpenter and Edward Carpenter, brothers) of forty-six souls. At half-past four on the morning of the 4th August, it being quite dark, raining hard, and blowing a fearful gale, the sea running mountains high, she struck on a reef on the west coast of King's Island entrance of Bass's Straits, and out of four hundred and twenty-three souls on board only nine were saved, the names of whom are—Mr. Thos. Guthrie (chief mate), Solomon Brown (emigrant), John Roberts, William Jones, Francis Millar, John Simpson, John Robertson, and Peter Johnson (able seamen), and William Blackstock (apprentice).

EFFECTS OF PEEL'S MEASURE.—We are informed, that immediately upon Sir Robert Peel's financial statement becoming known, orders were issued from both the Belper firms for all hands then on strike to return to work. Such, however, is the scarcity of hands, that the bellman has actually been sent round Duffield for the purpose of soliciting workmen.—*Derby Reporter*.

POSTSCRIPT.

Wednesday, February 11th.

PARLIAMENTARY INTELLIGENCE.
THE CORN-LAWS.

The adjourned debate on the Government free-trade scheme was resumed last night, after the presentation of a large number of petitions from each side of the House.

Mr. STAFFORD O'BRIEN, who complained that while Sir Robert Peel consulted with and took the advice of commercial interests in effecting his financial and fiscal changes, he never extended that courtesy to those who represented the landed interest. He had nothing to retract, explain, or defend, for his opinions were unchanged; and on behalf of the country gentlemen he could not but express his surprise at Mr. Sidney Herbert adopting the style of Mr. Villiers, and inviting them to "repair," as he termed it, the primary "error" of 1815. Certainly no human ingenuity could frame a law to satisfy the Sidney Herbert of last year and the Sidney Herbert of this. He had entered the House as a party man, and his first vote was to place the present Government in office. Their conduct, however, compelled the question of how were parties to exist, or Government to be conducted? The election of 1841 did not turn on a question of an import duty, and it was as disingenuous as useless so to attempt to disguise it. On a far higher principle was the appeal to the country made, and on which (said the honourable member) "we placed you on the Treasury bench." The failure of the potato crop in Ireland was not exaggerated; he knew that the rot had re-appeared, and he gave the Government credit for their exertions to meet the calamity. But a repeal of the corn-law was not the remedy. Mr. Smith O'Brien, whose influence in Ireland was only second to that possessed by Mr. O'Connell, had declared against it; and the measure would not enable any part of a famishing population to substitute a grain of oatmeal for the lost potatoes. He then argued at some length against free-trade, and that worst consequence of the Ministerial policy—the breaking up of a great constitutional party, and destroying all confidence in public men.

Mr. SHARMAN CRAWFORD showed in detail, that though Ireland had enjoyed agricultural protection for the last thirty years, the state of her agricultural population, tenants and labourers, was so wretched, that not only no change could make them worse, but that some change was necessary. Nor was the condition of the Irish landlords relatively better. There was nothing so much as cheap corn which would improve the condition of the people, and raise them above the level of a potato diet; while agricultural improvement, under the stimulus of competition, would speedily double the productive power of the country.

The Marquis of GRANBY made a speech with a thundering peroration; Mr. GREGORY gave in his adherence to Ministers, after having enlightened the House on the statistics of salt pork; and Lord BROOKE made a maiden speech, in which he fell foul of all the powers before whom the House are accustomed to bow down—the Premier—the League—the Ministers—Lord John Russell—and the Liberals *en masse*.

Lord WORSLEY observed, that this measure was not brought forward by her Majesty's Government as a measure which they deemed right, but as a measure which peculiar circumstances had rendered expedient. At the last general election, no cry was so general as that of "Peel, the farmer's friend;" but now, "Peel, the farmer's friend," was introducing a measure which almost every farmer in the country considered as pregnant with ruin to himself and his property. Noticing the observation of Mr. Sidney Herbert, that the country gentlemen of England were entertaining apprehensions of the proposed change not very creditable to their good sense, he asked who were the parties who had first poured those apprehensions into the agricultural mind? They were no less personages than Sir Robert Peel and Sir James Graham. Having read, amid the cheers and laughter of the House, extracts from their speeches in direct contradiction to the many advantages which they now proclaimed as likely to result from free-trade, he observed, that with the recollection of these speeches fresh in their memories it was impossible that the farmers would not, at the next general election, choose such representatives as would enable them to demand a revision of the corn-laws, even if they were defeated in their present opposition to the new-fangled scheme of Government. The question, therefore, would not be settled, even if the present measure were passed; but he hoped that it would not be passed even by the present Parliament, which was elected as a protection Parliament; for it was not either wise or equitable to enact a permanent law to meet a mere temporary evil. [We have seldom (says the *Chronicle*) seen a man look so uncomfortable as the Premier did while listening to his own rhetorical flourishes. He was entangled in the meshes of his own eloquence. Like Waller's eagle:—

"He, on the shaft that made him die,
Espied a feather of his own,
Wherewith he went to soar so high."

As for the Home Secretary, the right honourable baronet drew his hat over his eyes, he tried to look up in a cheerful manner, as though the orator were alluding to somebody else; and finally—tell it not in Gath!—Sir James Graham blushed. This blush of the right honourable Secretary's will be a fruitful theme for sonnetteers in days to come, like Chloe's tear or Phyllis' smile.]

Sir JAMES GRAHAM rose in reply to Lord Worsley, and began by stating that, as men and Ministers, he and his colleagues did not deserve blame for their conduct in this matter. For himself, his property mainly lay in land of an inferior description, so that upon his property any mischief which might arise in consequence of the measures proposed would be sure to fall first. As Ministers, he and his colleagues had thrown from them the allegiance of a large party, by which they might have retained a permanent hold of power. The right honourable baronet then went on to depre-

cate any more reading, such as Lord Worsley had inflicted on him that night, by declaring, amidst roars of laughter, that he had changed his opinions, and there was an end of it—there was no use talking to him about what he said on former occasions. He wished, however, to say, that he would have been better pleased had Lord John Russell carried this measure; but he thought that her Majesty's Ministers were justified—nay, compelled—to undertake the task, under the special circumstances of the case.

Lord CLIVE briefly expressed his intention of voting for the amendment of Mr. Miles, and of opposing the commercial project of Government.

On the motion of Mr. COLQUHOUN the debate, after a short discussion, was adjourned till Thursday next.

A NEW WAIT was moved for the city of Westminster, in the room of Captain Rous, who has accepted the office of a Lord of the Admiralty. When the purport of the motion was caught, a burst of sarcastic cheering broke from the "agricultural benches" on the Ministerial side.

There was last night a large number of petitions presented against the militia.

In the House of Lords last night, the Earl of ABERDEEN, in answer to a question from Lord KINNAIRD, respecting the cruelties alleged to have been perpetrated on the Polish nuns at Minsk, stated that he had no doubt the persecutions in question were grossly exaggerated; and that, whatever might be the state of the case, her Majesty's Government had no power to interfere in the matter.

MR. CORDEN.—We regret to state, that the hon. member for Stockport is confined to his house by severe indisposition.—*Times*.

We are informed that Lord Canning, late Under-Secretary for Foreign Affairs, will succeed Lord Lincoln as Chief Commissioner of Land Revenues.—*Ibid*.

Captain Rous has been appointed a Lord of the Admiralty, and has addressed the electors of Westminster, to request a renewal of the honour of representing them. The *Chronicle* advises the electors to choose General Evans, in preference to the new convert to free-trade.

We hear that Lord Ashley is to be immediately raised to the peerage. It is rumoured that Lord Ashley will succeed Lord Lincoln at the Woods and Forests.—*Chronicle*.

ANOTHER NEW COMET has been discovered by Father di Vico, of Altona, but particulars are not given.

ELECTION NEWS.—The honourable James Stuart Wortley having recently resigned his seat for Buteshire, on accepting the office of Judge Advocate-general, a new election, to fill up the vacancy, took place at Rothesay on Saturday, when he was re-elected without opposition.—Lord Lincoln's re-election for South Notts is to be opposed by Mr. T. B. Thornton Hildyard, in the Protection interest.—The Chichester election took place yesterday. Mr. Falvey, the anti-corn-law lecturer, was put in nomination by Messrs. Fullager and Malden, ministers, who spoke warmly on the insult offered to the constituency by the nominee system of the Duke of Richmond. Lord Henry Gordon Lennox then addressed the meeting in favour of protection. Mr. Falvey then came forward, and was received with loud cheers. He delivered an excellent address, in which he happily exposed the fallacy of Lord Henry Lennox's arguments in favour of protection. A show of hands was then taken, when about three-fourths were held up in favour of Mr. Falvey, and the remainder for Lord Henry Lennox. The Mayor said he was bound to declare that the show of hands was in favour of Mr. Falvey [cheers]. Mr. Henty, on the part of Lord Henry Lennox, demanded a poll; and, finally, Mr. Falvey retired from the contest.

MR. BRIGHT, M.P.—It is understood that Mr. Bright, M.P., will not again be a candidate for the representation of the city of Durham. The honourable gentleman, however, is not likely to have much difficulty in obtaining a seat in the next Parliament, as we understand that he has already been applied to by two influential constituencies, one of which is that of a very important metropolitan borough.

PROSPECTS FOR THE GOVERNMENT MEASURE.—The report now is, that so many of the peers to whom the Duke of Wellington had sent their proxies have returned them to his Grace, as to render the triumph of the Government certain. The bench of bishops, it is said, will unanimously support the Government measure of free-trade.

We understand that the Marquis of Abercorn has accepted the office of Groom of the Stole to Prince Albert, vacant by the resignation of the Marquis of Exeter.—*Times*.

REPRESENTATION OF LEICESTER.—The Anti-state-churchmen of Leicester had resolved on a general meeting of Dissenters, to have been holden last night, at which it was intended to have proposed an independent candidate, representing their sentiments. But on Saturday morning, intelligence was received that Mr. Wynn Ellis, seeing that he should not receive the support of a portion of the electors, had decided not to stand again. The meeting was therefore postponed, in order to give the old "Liberal" party an opportunity of accepting, with a good grace, Mr. George Thompson, the chosen candidate of the Anti-state-churchmen and earnest Reformers. At a meeting, however, on Monday evening, of the delegates from the wards appointed to recommend candidates, though Mr. Thompson was the only one formally before the meeting, they vigorously demurred to him, and resorted to the usual Whig policy of delay; a spirit of bitter opposition to the rights of the masses, and to an independent policy, having been also manifested. In consequence of these circumstances, a requisition to Mr. Thompson was determined upon, and is now being numerously and respectfully signed by the electoral body.—*From our Correspondent*.—[We understand that it is also in contemplation to invite Mr. Thompson as a candidate for the Tower Hamlets.]

METROPOLITAN COMPLETE SUFFRAGE ASSOCIATION.—This Association, we understand, is preparing itself for active operation, so soon as the food question is settled. Present election proceedings have doubtless done much to forward its principles.

ANTI-STATE-CHURCH TRACTS FOR THE MILLION.—Our readers will perceive, by our advertisement columns, that the first issue of a cheap series of tracts, adapted for popular use, is now ready. We think the executive committee has done wisely and well, in thus placing within the reach of the million the now—or, at any rate, soon to become—paramount question of the separation of the church from the state.

THE POTATO DISEASE.—The most serious apprehensions of famine, and consequent pestilence, are expressed in various letters from the western counties.—*Dublin Correspondent of the Chronicle*.

PREPARATIONS FOR WAR.—Whatever may be the result of the present aspect of affairs, the standing army is about to be placed in a most efficient state by the addition of 10,000 men, and the militia will be brought into readiness for immediate training on the shortest notice. The Ordnance Corps is to be increased betwixt 1,400 and 1,500 men, the Royal Marines are to be increased to the extent of 2,500 men, and the land forces of the line regiments, 6,000 men; but whether the latter will be added in battalions or additional regiments is not yet made known. The increase in the navy will be about 1,000 men, but it is already in a very efficient state, and steam-vessels of very great power can be manned by a far less number of hands than ships of war.—*Chronicle*.

THE HUTCHINSON FAMILY.—These American vocalists, whom we have before referred to as "the Anti-slavery Minstrels," made their first appearance in London last night. Their reception, according to the morning papers, for we were unable ourselves to be present, was highly gratifying, and their success signal. As we are at present unable to give our own opinion of their merits, we borrow the following brief description from the *Morning Chronicle*:—

There are four singers—a young lady and her three brothers. Miss Hutchinson is interesting in appearance, and her modest and unaffected deportment secured for her immediate sympathy. Her brothers look like German students, with their flowing locks, turned down collars, and loose black silk handkerchiefs round the neck. In the vocalisation of their quartett, the attributes of the Teutonic minstrels seen at the great *tables d'hôte* in Germany, will be recognised—the lady without an instrument, the men having two violins and violoncello, and their full and rich harmonies bear out the resemblance; but the Hutchinsons have distinctive qualities that give them a claim for the merit of originality—they sing from nature's impulse, and they produce an *ensemble* of remarkable charm. What care they for the musty laws of strict harmony? They despise all conventionalities. Their hearts are in their song, and like "music on the waters" are their sweet voices. . . . We find music in the roar of the waves—in the hum of a multitude—we have heard music but recently from rocks; but here are breathing beings setting at naught all scientific restrictions, and yet fixing the attention and exciting the imagination to an extraordinary degree. Right welcome is the Hutchinson family.

SHORTENING THE HOURS OF LABOUR IN FACTORIES.—On Tuesday last, a very important preliminary meeting of mill-owners was held in Manchester, for the purpose of considering whether, in the prospect of a total repeal of the corn-laws, some reduction in the hours of labour might not be safely attempted. A resolution was passed in favour of a more general meeting, to be held on Saturday last. There is an almost universal feeling amongst the mill-owners in favour of a trial of eleven instead of twelve hours labour in factories, and a disposition to consent to a compromise of this much agitated question, by supporting the enactment of an *eleven hours bill* by the legislature. We have not heard the decision of the mill-owners on Saturday, but we learn from the *Preston Guardian*, that there was a meeting of the master cotton-spinners of that town and neighbourhood, on Thursday night, when a resolution was passed to the effect, that any further interference with the hours of labour would be impolitic and dangerous, as reducing the power to compete with foreigners. The *Leeds Mercury* points out the specific advantages that would attend the adoption of the eleven hours' system:—

In times of depressed trade, shorter hours would often be worked; but eleven hours would be the *maximum* in times of the greatest activity. If the mills ran eleven hours a day, they would open at six o'clock in the morning, and close at half-past six in the evening—allowing an hour and a half for meals. We do not think it even desirable that they should close at an earlier hour. If they did so, the operatives would certainly have less wages in consequence. The lightness of factory labour, where manual exertion is almost superseded by the machinery, makes eleven hours in a mill not at all harder than ten hours at any of the severer employments, such as smiths, mechanics, masons, glass-blowers, &c. Closing at half-past six, the work-people would have a good evening for attention to their families and for the improvement of their minds; and would that they would spend the evening in these laudable ways, instead of frequenting scenes of dissipation!

THE LAND OF FREEDOM!—A teller in the Canal Bank, Mr. B——, has recently contracted a marriage with the daughter of a rich broker, Mr. J——; and as the lady, although young, beautiful, and highly accomplished, has, it is said, a cross of African blood in her veins, the public are indignant; and, agreeable to an old custom, the happy pair are nightly serenaded by the Sheet Iron Band, until the husband shall pony over some five or six thousand dollars, which is given to the Orphan Asylum. About five hundred individuals turned out last night with all sorts of instruments, but could not succeed in unkennelling Mr. B. They are to give a fourth concert to-night. Many of our most respectable (!) citizens are members of this band.—*New York Herald*, Dec. 31, 1845.

CORN MARKET. MARK LANE. THIS DAY.

	Wheat	Barley	Oats	Beans	Peas	Flour.
English	1660	2510	3640			
Scotch						
Irish			2210			
Foreign	4340	1130				

No alteration in prices.

Terms for advertising in the *Nonconformist*.
For 7 lines....5s. 0d. | For 10 lines....6s. 0d.
For every additional line..... 4d.

Advertisements from the country must be accompanied by a post-office order, or reference for payment in London.

TO CORRESPONDENTS.

The letter from Harwich has been received. The person there mentioned has not the slightest influence in that quarter.

"E. Micklewood." The notice would subject us to the advertisement duty.

"Fifanus." There is a great difference in most movements between the ostensible and the real, although many who take part in it cannot see it.

"David Watson." The plan suggested is already extensively adopted.

"A Reader of the *Nonconformist* from its Commencement." We should be delighted to insert such a sketch, if we could get one.

"A. B." A movement for that object may succeed, but not at the present moment.

"John Bartholomew." We will return the manuscript after reading it.

"J. A." Chelsea. The suggestion may possibly be acted on if found necessary.

"A Nonconformist." Not that we know of.

The Nonconformist.

LONDON: WEDNESDAY, FEB. 11, 1846.

SUMMARY.

THE great commercial debate opened on Monday night auspiciously, we think, for the cause of free-trade. Mr. Miles led the attack upon the Ministerial measure, in a speech which lacked nothing to make it a triumphant one but a good cause. He marshalled all the arguments upon which the Protectionists have been accustomed to rely, arranged them in due order, and set them off in an appropriate dress. Eschewing all bitterness, casting overboard all considerations of party, nobly refusing to impugn the motives of those who have seen fit to change their minds, and confining himself exclusively to the subject in hand, he did as much for those views of the question, which he has taken under his special patronage, as could have been done by any single member. He moved that the House resolve itself into a committee that day six months. The motion was gracefully seconded by Sir W. Heathcote. He was followed by Mr. W. S. Lascelles, who having, as he said, nothing for himself to recant, generously broke a lance in favour of the consistency of Sir R. Peel. Lord Sandon spoke strongly against the measure and its authors, and concluded by informing the House that he intended to vote for it. Mr. B. Cochrane ridiculed the notion of legislative finality, quoting Sidney Smith's axiom, that whoever talked of an unalterable law must be an unalterable fool. Mr. Deedes and Sir J. Walsh supported the amendment, as did also Lord Norreys and Mr. B. Hope. Lord John Russell, the first member who rose on the Opposition side of the House, then stated briefly the course which the party of whom he was leader meant to pursue in reference to the measure. He objected of course to the delay which would occur in the abolition of all protection in the article of corn. He did not, however, mean to take any step which would, in the slightest degree, endanger the Ministerial project. His speech on the whole was calm, straightforward, and dignified, lucid in its arrangement, strong in its argumentation, and, for the most part, generous in its tone. But it was disfigured towards its close by a party fling at Sir R. Peel, who, he said, had he acted with the same disinterestedness as the Whigs are now doing, would have enabled them to obtain for the country all the advantages the glory of which he now arrogates to himself. Sir R. Inglis indulged in personalities to a much greater extent than any of the preceding speakers, and was followed by Capt. Fitzmaurice in the same strain. The debate of the evening was closed by Mr. S. Herbert, who frankly confessed that the law of 1842 had failed, absolutely failed—that the first test to which it had been subjected by adverse circumstances had proved its worthlessness. He enlarged to some extent upon the failure in the potato crop, and showed that the alarm of the public in reference to an approaching famine in Ireland was but too well-founded. He characterised the corn-law of 1815 as the greatest error which had ever been committed by human legislation, and earnestly called upon the House to speed the effort of Government to join in one common bond of union the agricultural and commercial classes. On the motion of Mr. S. O'Brien the debate was adjourned until Tuesday.

We commenced our Summary with the Corn-Law debate because it is well-nigh the only important topic which has come under the notice of Parliament since our last number. There has been some talk on railway legislation, upon the first report of the select committee. That report contains recommendations not very strikingly in harmony with the speech of Sir R. Peel, delivered at the commencement of the session. Far from throwing impediments in the way of railway projects, it recommends such a distribution of labour between the Lords and the Commons as may be expected considerably to facilitate them. We must refer our readers to other columns for particulars, contenting ourselves with a mere statement of our belief, that the railway interest has now become too

strong to be seriously fettered or controlled by the arbitrary regulations of Government.

Thus much for Parliament. The out-door world presents a greater variety of topics for passing notice. And first for the elections. The West Riding of Yorkshire, unmoved by the Massaniello eloquence of Mr. Ferrand, has returned Lord Morpeth to the House of Commons without opposition. His lordship's speech at the nomination was characteristic of himself—simple, manly, full of the highest morality, evincing the most delicate sentiment, and recognising, with unshrinking courage, the high sanctions of religion. His audience, an immense one by the bye, listened to him with rapt attention, and elected him with all but unanimity. There is no member of the aristocracy whose return to Parliament we can hail with such unqualified pleasure as that of Lord Morpeth. We have no affection for his "order," but we have great admiration for the man. Warped occasionally by the influence of party, he has yet, in the main, evinced high-souled integrity, and fervid attachment to truth. His faults are chiefly those of his position, and few men perhaps have, by the sheer force of their own virtue, surmounted so far the deteriorating influences of partizanship as himself.

There seems no probability that, for the present at least, we shall be wanting in materials for illustrating the beauties of nominal representation. Parliamentary resignations are even more numerous than those which are official; and it is curious to observe how, when men are promoted to a post in the Government, they find a difficulty in gaining re-admission to the House of Commons. Mr. Gladstone still roams abroad in quest of a Parliamentary seat; and, one after another, the Protectionist patrons refuse their sanction to his free-trade doctrines. The administration may be regarded, *quoad* the measure of Sir R. Peel, a popular one: and, if representation were real, instead of nominal, Ministers would find no difficulty in securing their election. They are now visited with the punishment due to their own determinate retention of the rotten borough system. Their guns are turned against themselves. The precautions which they took to insure seats for their own creatures, are converted by their enemies into means and instruments of annoyance. We believe it is a breach of privilege for peers to interfere in the election of commoners. How comes it that Chichester and Buckingham are vacant? and by whose interposition, and with whose nominees, are they to be filled? Sir R. Peel has changed his mind on commercial subjects, convinced by three years' experience; who can say what lessons are being now written upon his susceptible mind, by the curious electoral phenomena which every week is producing? Perhaps, he may be treasuring up knowledge which will furnish motives for a new change; and towards the conclusion of the next Parliament, may avow that, with a view to the interests of all her Majesty's subjects, it is expedient that representation should be co-extensive with taxation.

It is announced that the Parliamentary leaders of the League have resolved on so shaping their course, as to put on record their own protest against the delay of corn-law abolition, without risking the success of the Ministerial measure. The precise mode in which this is to be accomplished has not yet transpired. The resolution itself, we think, is a wise one. Sir R. Peel's bill contains within it the germ of all that the Free-traders demand. To throw it away would not probably hasten the accomplishment of their object, whilst it would certainly fill up the interval of three years with all the evils of uncertainty, agitation, and political strife. Sir R. Peel has probably proposed as much as he is able to carry, and what he has proposed, it is equally likely that he will be able to embody in imperial law. To obtain so large an instalment will be a great step towards the ultimate object of the League—a step made good against the possibility of retrocession. We think, therefore, that they are consistently moving onward to the accomplishment of their design by cautiously refraining from any act whereby the Ministerial measure may be endangered. The country would hardly absolve them from heavy responsibility, were they to pursue a course wearing the slightest appearance of factiousness, and time is too precious to be thrown away upon that which, patiently waited for, will come of itself.

We have only further, in connexion with home affairs, to direct the attention of our readers to the satisfactory progress of the anti-militia movement throughout the country, and to the report contained in another column, of speeches delivered at an anti-state-church *soirée*, held at the Eastern Institution, on Wednesday evening last.

An Indian mail has arrived, *via* Trieste. It brings unwelcome tidings. The Sikh soldiery had crossed the Sutledge, in three divisions, to the number of 50,000, and three days' hard fighting with the British forces had taken place. The loss on both sides is great. The Sikhs, of course, were defeated, but not without apparent difficulty. It is impossible to come to a true judgment of the merits of the question from the scanty reports hitherto furnished us. War is an abomination under any circumstances, but whether the cause of war, in the present instance, originated in the lawless movements of an uncontrolled body of Indian janissaries, or in the provocations offered to them by British policy, remains to be seen. We must be careful to distinguish between the rightfulness of a cause and the legitimacy or otherwise of the means used in defence of it. We do but lose ground by pouring indiscriminate condemnation upon what, when coolly

investigated, may turn out to have deserved far better treatment. Whilst, therefore, we avow our unmitigated hostility to war in every shape, we shall not pre-judge our countrymen in the east by assuming that they are to blame as the occasion of it. We wait for further information—suspicious only thus far, that past history does but little to justify British conquests, and that if the Government of India is blameless in the matter of the Punjaub, it is a most remarkable exception to a general rule.

THE GRAND DEBATE.

THE firing has commenced—monopoly, impregnable, hitherto, to all external assaults, is once again invested—and this time it is doomed to fall. Strong in position, guarded at all points by the most dexterous art, and possessed of vast resources, it will not be taken without a desperate struggle. It has had a fortnight's respite—but that respite has proved of small avail. The flag, indeed, has been nailed to the staff—the garrison have resolved upon holding out to the last; but beyond this, nothing has been done to secure victory. The walls where tottering have not been repaired—the guns, where not already dismounted, remain just what and where they were—no new forces have been introduced—no novel plan of defence has been propounded—no officer of commanding, but, until now, latent merit, has come forward. Monopoly is besieged, and neither its position, its muniments, nor its resources, will suffice to save it.

Of late years, Parliamentary debates have excited but little interest. They have wanted that element of reality in them which alone is potent to stir a nation's heart. They have been regarded, and with justice, as the struggles of contending factions for place and power—contests, involving in their issue no principle about which the sympathies of the people might cling—trials of political dexterity and might, which, however ended, would leave the country much in the same position as it was before. These party encounters had become wearisome, and had almost ceased to attract notice. Men went about their daily business without heeding them. They saw in them the representation of no one idea which, originating with themselves, they had been wont to cherish. The Legislature might as well, for anything they cared, have been framing a constitution for China, or settling the relative position of parties in Japan—so utterly beside the substantial interests of this empire were the questions usually at stake. The very mode of warfare, the kind of weapons employed, the directions in which ingenuity developed itself, the character of the feats accomplished—all conspired to put parliamentary discussion on the outer side of the circle within which popular interest lives, moves, and has its being. Few persons beyond the walls of Parliament care for Hansard—fewer still for the conventionalisms of party. In the world of fact and reality, men ask for reasons, not for precedents, and esteem common sense above the most celebrated authorities.

It is a new thing, then, to witness the opening of a debate which far more vitally affects the condition of the people, than it does the prospects of an administration. Of this character, however, is that just commenced. For once, we have a ministry staking its existence and its reputation upon a measure which, whatever its imperfections, embodies one of the most prominent popular ideas of the present age—a measure which gives, as it were, articulate utterance to the nation's mind, and, to those dreamy desires which had long moved the heart of this vast community, "a local habitation and a name." The Ministerial proposition, in all but its foolish delays, and its characteristic omissions, is a legislative recognition and interpretation of providential laws which to oppose is certain discomfiture, disgrace, and ruin—a correct and literal interpretation of an empire's will—a reduction to practice of rules prescribed alike by experience, philosophy, philanthropy, and religion. It proclaims the manhood of commerce, and invites it to enter upon the privileges and duties of its majority. It says to industry, "Stand up in your own right!"—to enterprise, "Be free for evermore!" It sets open the door by which British skill and British labour may go forth to the markets of the world, and turn to account, for British comfort, elevation, and refinement, the resources of all countries and all climes. It adds, not by conquest, but by peaceful legislation, not to hold by our arms, but to enjoy by our participation of their natural advantages, immense domains to our too-crowded empire. It gives to our people, and that in the best sense, the whole world for their inheritance.

The incalculable magnitude of the question in dispute, is not the only feature in this debate which awakens a lively interest. The manner in which it must needs be prosecuted to a successful termination, adds not a little to the zest with which the public regard it. The favourite weapons of Parliamentary warfare must be laid aside. Party hits will go for nothing. Slashing recriminations will be out of place. Quotations, picked from the speeches of bygone times, and dexterously hurled at the heads of opponents, will be felt to be so much skill and energy thrown away. The House will have to deal with things, not men. Candour and truth will be the most available resources for the advancing combatants. They must recognise principles for their vitality's sake—must wield arguments, selected not for their curious workmanship, but for their weight and strength—must rely upon the manliness of reason rather than upon the subtlety of intellect. There will be a closer correspondence than we have seen of

late, between the speeches within doors, and the thoughts without. Statesmen will be under an imperious necessity to do something more than a mock and supercilious homage to philosophy, justice, and religion. In this trial of right against might, the champions of the former, actuated by pure or impure motives, must enounce truths of large import, and be content to shelter themselves behind political maxims, which, under ordinary circumstances, they would have been the very last to cast up. All the entrenchments and batteries constructed for the present exigency will remain in their integrity when the free-trade contest is over, and it will go hard if the people cannot render them available for future and still more important struggles.

Nor need we conceal from ourselves, or from our readers, a further cause of interest in the debate now pending. We look upon the present struggle as involving far more extensive and beneficial consequences than a mere change in our commercial policy. The spirit of intelligence is girding up, its joints to wrestle a throw with the spirit of feudalism. "Ought" is about to grapple with "Shall"—and one decisive victory will go far to enthrone the superior power. When the people have with them the *prestige* of triumph—when self-reliance and hope once again domesticate themselves in their hearts—when, in short, a pathway has been discovered to summits long deemed inaccessible, we may expect a speedier progress in the reform of our political institutions than any we have yet witnessed. This, it is true, will not be a "crowning fight." There will be many a battle after this is over. But every gain against monopoly is twofold—for what we overcome, we receive into our ranks. The counties will not be much longer the strongholds of aristocracy. Tenant-farmers, thrown upon their own resources, will recover their political independence—and, in the issue, it may appear, that the best friends of the unrepresented masses will come forth from the ranks of the agriculturists. Truth, when once it gains head, makes short work with human follies.

PUBLIC READING OF THE PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES.

As everything was new once, and so many new things from small beginnings have taken root downwards and borne fruit upwards, there is something agreeable in trying to catch an improvement in its seedling state, and aid its chances and our own, for at some time finding the fowls of the air lodging in the branches.

The following extract which is going the round of the papers, appears to hold out an invitation to experiment—

We understand that it is proposed to have in Liverpool a public reading, at the Commercial Hall, Gloucester-street, of all the important debates during the session of Parliament, by competent readers appointed for the purpose, by which means the operative classes, at a small charge, may obtain a knowledge of all the parliamentary proceedings in which they feel an interest, and thereby be enabled to judge for themselves.—*Liverpool Albion*.

In this there seems much which is capable of extension and generalisation, after a process like that which from the blowing off the lid of a single teakettle, conducted to the formation of steam-engines on all railways. If such a thing can be done in one place, why can it not in another? Is there anything peculiar to Liverpool, in the importance of the debates of the present session? Will there be any other session, in which the debates will not be important to a people who think themselves worth taking care of, and mean to do it? Is there a debate in any session, in which the interest of the public is not attacked and defended, in a way which would be much improved by the public knowing a little more about the facts?

These considerations are of increased importance at the present moment, because we are passing through one of those periods when the power of the community or of public opinion, has just thrown off a gross form of injustice, and activity alone is required to hold and to extend the ground that has been gained. It seems indubitable that a *real* representation of the community in the House of Commons, is an engine competent to securing any degree of control over the public affairs which a wise community can desire. The only theory in opposition to this is, that there is somebody who knows better than the community what its interests are, and that the way to come at this elixir, is to cause it to be appointed by some fragment of the community, as for instance the sots and ale-bibbers of a rural market-town, being apparently a modification of the system of the ancient Germans, by which it was held requisite to debate a question once sober and once drunk, in order to combine the advantages to be severally derived from each of those conditions of mind and body.

It is not unlikely that considerable dislike might be felt in some quarters to the plan of such public readings. A noble lord would probably view them as interferences with the freedom of the representatives to do their own will, and not that of those who sent them. It is not many years since Frenchmen used to protest against the introduction of flagged causeways in Paris, and say they loved *la totalité de la rue*. In the same way the noble lord loves *la totalité de la rue* for representatives, without caring whose comforts might be interested in the contrary. The question revolves itself into this,—Is the representation for the benefit of the representatives or of the represented? If it is for the last, let them have their causeway where they think it comfortable, without attending to the fancies of the representatives.

Eight or nine years ago, a member of the House of Commons undertook to give accounts of the proceedings weekly to his constituents. But he never appeared there a second time; and that not through the violence of either the old Whigs or Tories, but of what called themselves the Reform party in peculiar, who could not tolerate the proximity thus generated between the agents and the principals. The miserable blight which fell upon all plans of Reform except in the single direction of commercial, may perhaps have led to a different feeling now. At all events, there is not the power to hinder. The Commercial Hall at Liverpool cannot be silenced by a decree of the Reform Club, nor the readings of honest men anywhere be put down by a conclave of honourable gentlemen disliking to be exposed, and very much afraid they shall be.

The arrangement of such readings presents great scope for the exercise of personal talent and local knowledge. When the industrious classes cease from their labour in the middle of the day is probably a season when the change from manual to mental occupation would be felt as "alternation sweet." A mountebank or a quack doctor would be sure of an audience at such a time; and why should not the reading of a protectionist speech in parliament do as well?

Further than this, the principle seems to be under no necessity of limitation to the time of session. Should the whole House accept the Chiltern Hundreds, it would not follow that the practice must be given up. There might still be meat for meditation, in matters capable of being read before the public. Why should not every sect and condition of men, who feel they have a cause to urge upon the mind of the community, bethink themselves of how it would look in the form of public readings, and how it might most advantageously be submitted to the process?

THE MINISTERIAL MEASURE.

ITS RECEPTION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY.

The *Morning Chronicle* publishes interesting information from the Midland Counties, relative to the state of public feeling on Sir R. Peel's measure.

With regard to Birmingham, with its population of 200,000, its correspondent mentions that, although the proposed reductions will materially affect the staple articles of manufacture there, the feeling is decidedly in favour of the ministerial scheme.

The manufacturers more immediately interested, and who would suffer most were the removal of the "protection" an evil, have not only offered no opposition to the scheme, but heartily commend it, and readily join in petitioning Parliament for a total and immediate repeal of the corn-laws.

The working classes also entertain similar views.

Coventry will be seriously affected, in its silk trade, by the important reductions, but yet the people are strongly in favour of the measure.

At Leicester Sir Robert Peel's new tariff is generally considered as a good measure by men of all parties who are connected with the commerce and manufactures of that part of the country. Agriculturists (owners and occupiers) view the measure very much through the medium of party feeling; but a large portion of the tenants, whatever may be their politics, are coming round to the conclusion, that if they are to have repeal, it would be better for them that it should be immediate.

NOTTINGHAM.—The town of Nottingham will be largely affected by the reduction of the duties on lace, and others of its delicate and staple manufactures. Yet a public meeting, consisting of all classes of the community, has petitioned Parliament in favour of Sir Robert Peel's measures, and expressed cordial thanks to the Minister for bringing them forward.

DERBY.—The town council of Derby has petitioned Parliament in favour of the new measures, but urging a total and immediate repeal of the corn-laws.

NORTHAMPTON.—The prospect of an inundation of foreign boots and shoes does not appear to have created the slightest uneasiness amongst the shoemakers of Northampton, notwithstanding that boots and shoes are their staple trade. A friend, in answer to our queries, says:—"Free-trade is welcomed here; and, with the reduction of the duty on hides and the corn-laws repealed, the shoemakers of Northampton have nothing to fear."

LINCOLN AND RUTLAND.—The most remarkable feature in the state of the public mind in these agricultural counties is the comparative indifference with which the whole subject is treated by the farmers in general, but the inhabitants of the Fens in particular.

The writer sums up his observations with the following remark:—"From what I have seen of public feeling in these districts during the last ten days, I feel perfectly satisfied that if a general election were to take place to-morrow it would end in the return of a large majority in support of free-trade."

The town councils of Hull, Nottingham, Gateshead, Derby, Sunderland, Worcester, and the Manchester Commercial Association, have adopted petitions to Parliament, praying for the immediate and total repeal of the corn-laws, as best adapted to promote the interests of all classes of the community.

On Thursday there was a town's meeting at Nottingham, at which Liberals and Conservatives unanimously adopted a petition in favour of the measure, praying Parliament to support it as a whole:—

Your petitioners, say they, deem it wiser and more for the benefit of all classes to repeal the existing corn-laws at once; but if the advocates of protection to agriculture, though, as we believe, with mistaken views, prefer the proposed reduced duties, and the postponement of total repeal for three years, your petitioners would confine her Majesty's Government to carry out their proposed measures in the best practicable mode.

There has been much the same sort of manifestation

for the measure at Cambridge; Mr. Deighton, the University publisher, and a staunch Conservative, presiding as Mayor over a most unanimous meeting of all parties.

There have been several meetings in Wales, especially in the mining districts, in favour of the immediate repeal of the corn-laws. At a numerous meeting at Merthyr Tydvil, some of the Chartist party, thinking the movement for immediate repeal likely to damage the Premier's scheme, moved an amendment, which was, however, rejected by the meeting. Eventually, they joined in signing the petitions in its favour.

THE LEAGUE PETITIONS.—There is every reason to believe (says the *Manchester Times*), from the correspondence of the League during the last few days, that the country is thoroughly up on the desirability of petitioning for total repeal. It appears that the petitions for the Metropolitan boroughs are in active progress, and the signatures will be very numerous. It is believed, indeed, that the number will be larger than any ever obtained for any political object whatever. In the Tower Hamlets, up to Thursday, the number obtained was 35,000, and 30,000 had been obtained in Lambeth, and in the other four boroughs the progress making was in the same proportion. The great Lancashire petition has been signed by 330,000 at least. The following are the places where the great bulk of the signatures has been obtained—all in three days:—Manchester (borough), 85,326; Salford (borough), 23,700; Liverpool (borough), 50,500; Rochdale, 12,744; Heaton Norris, 2,657; Bolton, 13,748; Ormskirk, 3,200; Wigan, 6,722; Bury, 3,745; Preston, 14,256; Oldham, 8,160; Burnley, 3,717; Blackburn, 16,744; St. Helen's and Newton, 3,440; the Tylda District, 6,199; Falls-worth, 2,340. The length of the petition is upwards of 1,200 yards, and it contains four columns of names in width. The weight of it is upwards of 160 lbs.

Protectionist meetings have been defeated at Totnes and Knaresborough during the past week.

WHAT THE PROTECTIONISTS SAY TO IT.

THE BUCKINGHAM AGRICULTURAL PROTECTION SOCIETY held a meeting at Buckingham, on Saturday, to make "an important demonstration of opinion upon the proposed measures of Sir R. Peel." There were about 500 persons present. The Duke presided, and there were present the Marquis of Chandos, his son, the Earl of Orkney, most of the M.P.'s for the county, and a strong corps of clergymen. The clergymen who spoke were especially violent in their language. Dr. Broughton thus spoke of the Premier:—

His advice was, not to trust to any man who had been found wanting in his duty and affection to religion and to God; for they might take it for granted that he who had been faithless to God and to religion would never be faithful to man [loud cheers].

A Mr. Lichfield compared Sir R. Peel to Richard the 3rd:—

They read in Shakespeare of Richmond's battle. He hoped there would be found to be now, as on that occasion, "three Richmonds in the field," and if so, he would willingly back them against the Gloster of the day, with all his hump-backed patriotism and club-footed morality [laughter and "hear!"]

Then followed allusions to Catiline, &c. All the speakers vied in their denunciations of the Premier, and in their pictures of coming misery to the country. Mr. Dupree, M.P., however, confessed "the majority in the House of Commons in favour of the Ministerial policy would, he feared, be much larger than their worst fears would lead them to suppose, but he sincerely hoped that, when the struggle went to another place, the defeat would be converted into a victory." The Duke made a long speech, but one which is little calculated to rescue the class of nobles to which he belongs from the odium which their own folly has brought down upon them. He mourned over the prospect before them of being laid prostrate at the feet of foreigners; but if they were beaten, they would not be conquered:—

For I know (he said) from the spirit which animates the farmers of this country, from their determination to adhere to the soil, that they will do everything they can to insure a greater quantity of produce, that they will never yield, but, on the contrary, that they will do whatever capital and other means will enable them to do to maintain the home market, and prevent foreigners from coming into it [cheers].

With regard to the measure itself, he said:—"You may rely upon it, however, that I shall be at my post in Parliament, and that I shall do my utmost on every occasion to defeat that measure, if possible. I shall do it all the harm I can, I shall do all I can to cripple it, if I cannot defeat it." Amongst the healths drunk was that of the Marquis of Chandos, the candidate for the borough of Buckingham, who in returning thanks made the following profound remark:—

He had not had an opportunity of judging of the merits of the measures upon which that meeting had been called together, and, at his age, he had not had much experience in these matters; but, from the attention he had given the matter, he considered those measures fraught with danger to all the best interests of the country [cheers].

LORD ASHLEY AND HIS CONSTITUENTS.—At a highly respectable meeting of the various Protection Societies in Dorset, viz., the Dorchester, the Blandford, the Bridport, the Wimborne, the Wareham, the Shaftesbury, the Sturminster, the Sherborne, &c., held in the town hall on Saturday,—John Floyer, Esq., of Stafford, in the chair,—the following resolution was passed:—

That this meeting although entertaining the highest sense of Lord Ashley's important services on many occasions to this county and nation as their representative in Parliament, feel themselves nevertheless called on to declare, without the least reserve, that they cannot consistently give him their support in the present crisis of affairs, should he again offer himself as their representative.

Mr. Farquharson was then proposed as a candidate, but that gentleman, who was present, declined it on account of his age. Eventually the names of Mr. Seymour and Mr. Floyer were mentioned as suitable candidates, but each of these gentlemen required time to consider the proposal. The papers pledging the persons signing to support both these gentlemen were then circulated.

At a public meeting of the inhabitants of the eastern division of Gloucestershire, held at Cirencester on Monday, after addresses in favour of protection from the Marquis of Worcester, Sir W. Codrington, M.P., Sir T. Tancred, Bart., and other gentlemen, the following resolution was carried:—

That Mr. Charteris having given a positive pledge in this room at a meeting on the 5th of February, 1844, that he would not consent to the abatement of one iota of protection to agriculture, and now having informed his constituents that he intends to support Sir Robert Peel's measure for the removal of all protection, he has thereby forfeited the confidence of his constituents, and we now call on him either to redeem his pledge or to resign his seat.

THE HON. P. CLIVE, M.P., AND LORD CLIVE, M.P., attended a meeting of their constituents for the county of Shropshire, at Shrewsbury, on Saturday. Both members avowed their abandonment of the principle of protection, and were called upon by the meeting to resign their seats; this, however, they refused to do. Eventually the following resolution was adopted:—

That this meeting views with feelings of astonishment and indignation the abandonment of the protective principle to native industry by members representing agricultural districts in the present House of Commons; and it is the unanimous opinion of this meeting, that any members of parliament entertaining opinions opposite to those which governed their election are bound, by the spirit of the British constitution, and by their individual feelings as men of honour, to restore the trust into the hands of the constituents whose opinions they no longer represent.

NORTH CHESHIRE.—Mr. Egerton, M.P., one of the representatives of North Cheshire, having stated to his constituents that he felt obliged, although reluctantly, to support the Ministerial measures, his candid conduct on the occasion has been approved of, and his services will be retained.

PROGRESS OF OPPRESSION IN GUIANA.

(From the *Guiana Congregational Record*.)

Six Months' Imprisonment! Twenty Pounds Fine! or Whipping, not exceeding Thirty-nine Lashes!!! to be inflicted by the jurisdiction of the Inferior Criminal Court (composed chiefly of Planters), WITHOUT THE RIGHT OF APPEAL, even to the Judges of the Supreme Criminal Court.

What will the friends of liberty say to this? Ye British philanthropists, ponder this well! Ye emigrationists of Europe, Asia, and Africa, ruminate over this—and then, come with all haste to this land of liberty and whipping, this land of freedom and thirty-nine stripes, this land of Inferior Court justice and no appeal!

For thus, indeed, are those borrowers of hundreds of thousands, for filling the land by immigration—those already entrusted with the lives and liberties of 120,000 British subjects—legislating at this moment in the Court of Policy of British Guiana! Her Majesty's Attorney-general having introduced "a bill to enlarge the Jurisdiction of the Inferior Courts of Criminal Justice in the colony of British Guiana," by which it is enacted that "each of such Inferior Criminal Courts shall have power, upon conviction of any offender brought before it, to inflict a punishment not other than, or exceeding imprisonment with or without hard labour, for a term not exceeding six months, or fine not exceeding £20, or whipping not exceeding thirty-nine stripes (this particular punishment being limited to males only), or any two or more of such kinds of punishment together within the limits aforesaid."

That this bill should receive the sanction of the home Government, we should not think possible; though it is impossible to think what may be sanctioned, after the allowance of the immigration-loan and the ecclesiastical-civil-list bills.

But we do say that a more impolitic, a more irritating, a more dangerous law could not be well introduced, at a time like this, by the greatest adversary that the peace of society or the liberties of men ever knew. The abominations of slavery are by means of it brought to mind with vivid power, and the most disastrous results may be apprehended from any attempt to carry it into effect. To say that it will swell the ranks of Reformers, were to say little. We should rejoice to think of it, were that only to result. But it will endanger their spirit of forbearance—it may provoke to insubordination, such as we should dread to anticipate. We beseech our legislators to pause! We entreat them not to exasperate, by harrowing up the feelings of the labouring population by whipping legislation—thirty-nine stripes law—promulgation of Inferior Court punishments, without appeal!

In one quarter public feeling is excited against it, as will be seen by an advertisement received for insertion since writing the above. It will doubtless be numerously attended, and may lead to similar meetings in other parts. If the measure should after that become law, even for a time, we tremble for the peace of the country, when the first victim of the new law shall have been tried and condemned by an inferior court of criminal justice, to be stretched upon the triangle, and his back lacerated with thirty-nine stripes (or 361 wounds) from the degrading cat-o'-nine-tails! Pause! we entreat you, ere it be too late.

EXPORTATION OF GRAIN.—We are enabled to state, on unquestionable authority, that there are at this time very extensive orders in this country for English barley and rye, for exportation to Holland and Belgium. Since last harvest large exports of English peas and beans have taken place to those countries; and now it appears that, quality considered, England is the cheapest market in Europe for barley and rye, from which they can derive supplies.—*Chronicle*.

MISS BURDETT COUTTS has given £30,000 to the Bishop of London for the purpose of building a church, parsonage-house, and schools, in the City of Westminster.

FORTHCOMING IRISH MEASURES.—The London correspondent of the *Evening Post* says:—"Next week three bills are to be introduced respecting Ireland: 1. Compensation to tenants for improvements; 2. Leases on two-and-sixpenny stamps, for rents under £50; 3. Conversion of leases for ever, on lives renewable for ever, into fee simple estates."

RAILWAY DEPOSITS.—The total sum passed to the credit of the Accountant-general with the Bank of England, on account of railways, amounted, up to Friday night, to £11,492,000. The commercial classes, more especially shopkeepers and tradesmen, feel the pressure in the money market severely.

THE ANTI-MILITIA MOVEMENT.

We are glad to find that the country is now fairly aroused to indignation by the proposal to enrol the militia, and that, in spite of the abandonment of the ballot system, the scheme still finds but little favour in the eyes of the people. The strong and general feeling in favour of peace principles, which the agitation has been the means of bringing out, is as surprising as it is gratifying. The public meetings, in opposition to the calling out of the militia, during the past week have been numerous and enthusiastic.

On Monday, the mayor of Leeds, D. Lupton, Esq., presided over a crowded meeting in that town, in order to afford the inhabitants an opportunity of manifesting their sentiments, with reference to the critical position of England and America, on the Oregon question, and also with reference to the proposal of Government for calling out the militia. The meeting was convened by the mayor, in compliance with a requisition, to which were attached the names of several of the leading merchants, &c., in the borough; and which had been presented a few days before. The *Leeds Times* has the following description of the meeting:—

Both as regarded numbers and enthusiasm, the meeting was of a character to afford high gratification to the friends of peace. While several of the leading men of the town, with the mayor at their head, occupied the platform, the body of the hall was crowded to excess with an assembly consisting of the middle and working classes of the borough. The gratifying comparison which such a meeting, assembled for the promotion of peace, was so naturally calculated to suggest with the popular feeling which pervaded almost all classes at no very distant period on the subject of war and military glory, presented itself to the mind of most of the speakers, nearly all of whom touched more or less upon it. It is evident that the reputation of being the best slaughterers in the world, together with all the glittering gew-gaws with which a cunning policy has contrived to surround and glorify the horrors of war, are beginning to be held very cheap by the people of England.

Amongst the gentlemen present on the platform were the Mayor, D. Lupton, Esq. (the late mayor), G. G. Maclean, Esq., Robert Jowitt, Esq., T. B. Pease, Esq., J. S. Birchall, Esq., James Richardson, Esq., Thomas Harvey, Esq., E. Joy, Esq., Robert Arthington, Esq., William West, Esq., James Hotham, Esq., and a large number of the Society of Friends, Mr. Robert Newstead, Mr. Thomas Scals, Mr. C. Wicksteed, Mr. John Peters, Mr. William Hudswell, &c. &c.

The petition against the militia for this borough has received 16,000 signatures.

A large meeting was held at Sheffield, in the Friends' meeting-house, against the militia movement; and petitions having the same object, and containing upwards of thirty thousand signatures, have been forwarded for presentation in the House of Commons.

On Monday night week there was a great meeting in the Corn-exchange, Manchester, on the same subject. Mr. W. McKerrow took the chair, and Mr. Jefferson, secretary of the London Peace Society, Mr. Edwin P. Hood, Dr. Massie, Dr. Beard, Mr. Prentice, Mr. Cunningham, and other members of the Manchester Peace Society, or entertaining similar views, were on the platform, and addressed the meeting in stirring speeches.

ANTI-MILITIA MEETING AT BRADFORD.—On Tuesday evening last (says the *Observer*) a crowded and enthusiastic meeting of the inhabitants of Bradford was held in the Temperance-hall in this town, for the purpose of considering the propriety of petitioning Parliament against the intended embodiment of the militia. The meeting was convened by the constables. Every sentiment of opposition to the enrolment, and of determination to go to gaol rather than take up arms, was heartily responded to by the whole assembly. Mr. W. Sharman, formerly a serjeant in the regulars, in addressing the meeting mentioned, that he knew one regiment in which they wanted four hundred men, and they could not get one [cheers]. A petition to Parliament was adopted.

At a public meeting at Keighley, a resolution to the following effect was passed:—

That the ministers of the different denominations of Christians in this town, be respectfully requested to prepare petitions and call meetings of their respective churches and congregations, to petition Parliament against the embodiment of the militia.

It was further resolved:—

That the anti-militia committee lay out forty shillings in the purchase of tracts on the horrors of war, published by the Peace Society, for gratuitous distribution.

ANTI-MILITIA MEETING AT NORWICH.—We learn from the *Norfolk News*, that a public meeting of the working classes was held in the Old Library-room, St. Andrew's-hall, on the night of Monday last, for the purpose of agreeing to a petition to the Legislature, against the militia ballot. This room, which is capable of holding 300 or 400 people, was filled to overflowing, and hundreds more were anxious to obtain admission, but were not able to get in. One of the resolutions passed was to the following effect:—

That this meeting further protests against the enrolment of the militia, because of its oppressive bearings upon the working classes, inasmuch as those in opulent circumstances are in the possession of the means of procuring substitutes, while many of their poorer brethren have no alternative but the gaol, or to leave their families or occupations for a base, demoralising, and degrading servitude, and because it is both a mockery and injustice on the part of the Government to demand the services of the men for the protection of a state whom it refuses to invest with political freedom.

THE MILITIA.—The petition from Liverpool against the re-organisation of the militia force was despatched on Wednesday evening with 3,840 signatures.—*Liverpool Mercury*.

There was a great anti-militia demonstration at Glasgow, on Monday last, in the City-hall, which, says the *Examiner*, was crowded to excess in every part of the spacious building. The object of the meeting—the placard calling which was headed: "Tyranny resisted!"—"No vote, no musket!"—was to give the unfranchised portion of the citizens an opportunity of protest-

ing and petitioning against the proposal of Government to raise the militia, but especially to expose and resist the gross injustice of laying on them the burden of acting the soldier for the protection of those who have property and interests in the country to defend. One of the speakers, Mr. T. Gillespie, thus addressed the meeting:—

He had a vote, but he would not, to obtain ten thousand votes, lift a musket—it was altogether opposed to the universal brotherhood of mankind [cheers]. The bill calling the meeting said, "No vote, no musket!" but he would say "All votes, and no muskets" [cheers and laughter]. He would propose, in order to settle the war question:—If Government is resolved to fight with the Americans about Oregon, and the Americans also determined to go to war with us, let both sides pick out the men amongst them who are anxious for fighting, and let them fight it out amongst themselves [vehement cheering]—and if the whole of them kill each other we won't interfere—we will let them take their fill of it [loud cheers and laughter]!

The last resolution is as follows:—

That militia societies are nurseries of hired assassins, and that the meeting pledge themselves neither to serve if drawn, nor provide a substitute, nor avail themselves of the protection of any of these societies, under any conditions whatever.

After which a committee of fifteen was appointed to collect subscriptions for the purpose of indemnifying those who may, by offering passive resistance, suffer loss and injury in resisting tyranny and injustice.

We might easily fill our paper with the reports of the numerous meetings which have taken place on this subject throughout the country. It will therefore be sufficient to mention, that public meetings have been held at Bury (at which a resolution was unanimously adopted, declaring that the meeting were "determined, at all hazards, neither to fight themselves, nor to hire substitutes for so doing"), North Shields (where the speakers recommended a similar course), Aylesbury, Gloucester, Doncaster, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, &c., &c.

Public meetings have been held, and petitions adopted, under the auspices of the Peace Society, in the following places:—Brighton, Stratford-le-Bow, Latimer chapel (Mile-end), Chatham, Walthamstow, Enfield, Uxbridge, Stoke Newington, Chelsea, Reading, Colchester, Maidstone, Milton-street (London), Boston, Dunfermline, Stirling, Worcester, Glasgow, Wakefield, Southwark, Farringdon-street (London), Kingsland, Chipping-Norton, Dorchester, St. Austel, Mevagissey, Twardrurt, Roche, Carthew, Alloa, Bridgewater, Bradford (Yorkshire), Edinburgh, Rochdale, Barnard Castle, Stockton, Fleetwood, Liverpool, Coulbrookdale, Saffron Walden, Dover, Liskeard, Lancaster, Lewes, Darlington, Huddersfield, the Pavement, Philip-street, and Austen-street chapels (London), Andover, Hurstbourne Farrant, Long Parish, Ludgershall, Stockbridge, Winchester, Southampton, &c.

THE WEST RIDING ELECTION.

The nomination for the West Riding of Yorkshire took place at Wakefield on Wednesday; but neither Mr. Ferrand nor his candidate, Mr. George Lane Fox, was in attendance. This untoward upshot to a fortnight's incessant agitation was announced by Mr. Ferrand in an address dated on Tuesday; the alleged cause being the refusal of Mr. Fox to become a candidate, on the ground of ill health. Mr. Ferrand laments that "the friends of native industry" should be doomed to bitter disappointment at a moment when success was approaching to certainty.

The election proceedings on Wednesday were conducted on hustings erected at the top of Wood-street, close to the Court-house. From an early hour crowds of persons poured into Wakefield from all quarters; most of the millowners in the adjoining districts giving their hands a holiday, and the railway companies supplying the means of transit. By ten o'clock, 30,000 persons are said to have been present. A few minutes before that hour, Lord Morpeth arrived, under the escort of a numerous body-guard of friends; and when he appeared on the hustings, a hearty cheer burst forth from the immense multitude before him. Lord Morpeth was supported by Mr. Walter Fawkes, of Farnley, Mr. J. G. Marshall, Mr. Charles Wood, M.P., Mr. Gaskell, Mr. H. Latham, Mr. C. Wynne, Mr. J. Scholefield, Honourable Edward Petre, Mr. B. Dixon, Mr. Bowers, and Sir E. Vavasour. Mr. Fawkes, in proposing Lord Morpeth, congratulated the electors on having retrieved the humiliating defeat which they sustained in 1841, from the full-grown, purse-proud, and intolerant spirit of monopoly. The progress which free-trade opinions had made, was well marked also in the condition of the hostile hustings which stood on the left. [Mr. Fawkes here alluded to an erection put up for Mr. Ferrand, and his party, in anticipation of their requiring such accommodation: in their absence it was occupied by Free-traders.] He was glad to find, that the persons who threatened to commit a great onslaught on the Free-traders on the present occasion did not stand in need of any additional chastisement: they had received enough during their canvass.

Mr. J. G. MARSHALL was the seconder. The progress of free-trade opinions, he said, had caused a cordial union to spring up between the bulk of the working population and the other classes of society, from which the happiest effects might be anticipated. It was only, he added, in allusion to the short-time question, by the voluntary and friendly co-operation of the employers and the employed, that the evils which had grown up among the labouring population could be remedied.

LORD MORPETH then addressed the meeting at great length. He adverted to the defeat of 1841; and made some humorous allusions to the efforts of Mr. Archer Gurney and Mr. Ferrand to get up an opposition to him now. Mr. Ferrand was not so much a candidate himself as "the godfather of candidates;" only his godchildren had a tendency to turn rickety. This, however, marked the progress of opinion; and on this point he hoped they would allow him to remind them of what he stated when last in Wakefield:—

I said on that occasion, "That the opinions and the measures of which I am the advocate are now moving in their onward though unseen track, and hastening to their accom-

plishment;" and I added, "If there be one subject more than another in which a nation is most likely ultimately to see itself righted, it is on that which concerns its food" [cheers]. And it is on the question of food—that question which has stirred the mind of England to its inmost depths—that I now come again to ask for, and as I believe to receive, the recovered suffrages of the West Riding [loud cheers].

Lord Morpeth reminded his hearers that, when defeated in 1841, he stated that he could not reconcile himself to the thought of occupying any other seat but the West Riding; and although he had been absolved by the electors themselves from his implied promise, still he now rejoiced that he had not entered into any other service:—

I do rejoice now that I have not entered into any other service [cheers], that I have called no other men my masters [loud cheers], that I have reserved myself for this cause and for this hour [tremendous cheering], and that, should you shortly confirm my election, I shall go into the House of Commons as the member for the West Riding, to vote for—[An enthusiastic burst of cheering drowned Lord Morpeth's voice. When it subsided he exclaimed]—I think you must be aware, that the sentence was intended to have concluded with "the total and immediate repeal of the corn-laws" [repeated cheering].

They could not fail to recollect, that his defeat in 1841 was occasioned by his free-trade opinions:—

I was then opposed, and then beaten [cries of "Shame"] by the exertions of the great body of the landed interest [cries of "By bribery"], and by other friends of monopoly, because they said I had adopted a very violent and revolutionary course in recommending a fixed duty of 8s. per quarter [laughter]. I think they would be slightly obliged to me now if I could secure them the rejected 8s. duty [cheers]. But that scrip has gone down in the market, and no efforts can get it up again [laughter].

As to the League, although many of its members might have said things of which he disapproved, and the League itself might have done things to which he could not subscribe, still he could not but attribute the present position of the corn-law question to the unmeasured efforts of that body, and to the energy and ability of its leaders. His lordship then adverted to the "Ministerial crisis," remarking that, in the Government of Lord John Russell, with whom he had consented to accept office, every member had agreed to the proposition for a total and immediate repeal of the corn-laws. All the circumstances, however, connected with the Ministerial movement conspired to show, that Sir R. Peel was prepared of himself to do great things for free-trade; and the expectation had been realised:—

I think none of us will deny, that in the recent proposals submitted to Parliament Sir Robert Peel has done great things for free-trade [cheers]. I reserve for myself the consideration of the precise details; but I may say, that I cordially approve of the great feature of that measure. I rejoice in the instant admission, free of all duty, of colonial corn, of Indian corn, of meat, salt and fresh, and live cattle. I am not sure, though I know that therein I differ from many of my friends, and from many ardent Free-traders in general—I am not sure, I say, that I shall feel myself called upon to dissent from the differences which he still wishes to retain between the admission of slave-grown and free-grown sugar [cheers]. My doubt is, whether he can in practice realise that difference. But if he can, great as are the lengths I would always go in behalf of free-trade, I must ever disconnect from all fellowship with that glorious cause the blood-red flag of the slave-trade. But with respect to his measures. I wish above all to avoid the three years' delay before we arrive at the totally free admission of corn [cheers]. I object to it as much with reference to agriculture as to any other interest. I am not sure whether it would not in the end tell more prejudicially on them than any other class of the community, and in any amendment or motion which may be brought forward I shall be ready to vote that that which he wishes to take place three years' hence shall be immediate and at once [loud and protracted cheering]. Gentlemen, if you send me to Parliament, I shall then, as I have explained, be on the whole prepared to give my cordial assent to the measures just submitted to the legislature [applause]. And in this state of things, whilst this great proposal has been just launched into the House of Commons, whilst the whole mind of the country is intent on the reception it is there to meet with, it happens that, by the will of Providence, and by the sudden and unexpected death of Lord Wharfedale, to whom and to whose race I have been ever opposed during my whole public career, but to whom no one of his most determined opponents could refuse the just praise of being an upright, high-minded, and most useful public servant—it happens that, by the vacancy occasioned by his death, the consideration of the proposal of the Prime Minister is just at this important and critical moment submitted to this constituency, which is not only the largest in the kingdom, but which, in company, perhaps, with one other, has a greater interest in having it solved than any other in the realm [loud cheers]. Yes, gentlemen, the West Riding of Yorkshire, comprising Leeds with its woollens, and Bradford with its worsteds, and Huddersfield with its fancy goods, and Halifax with its piece goods, and Sheffield with its cutlery, and Rotherham with its iron, and Barnsley with its linens, besides the far and fair domain of agricultural enterprise—this riding has reason to say "aye" or "no," shall there be a total repeal of the corn-laws [loud and enthusiastic applause]; for that, gentlemen, is the banner which we have planted in our van, and which we engage to support against all assailants.

Lord Morpeth dilated upon the beneficial effects to arise from free-trade, in preserving peace with all nations, insuring the blessings of abundance, and in multiplying the means of employment.

Mr. WALKER, of Bradford, asked Lord Morpeth if he would support the limitation of factory labour to ten hours a day for all young persons between thirteen and twenty-one years of age? Lord Morpeth replied:—

I think that, in accordance with words of my own which have been quoted, the repeal of the corn-laws will give an opportunity for a fresh consideration, and, I hope, for satisfactory adjustment of the question of the hours of labour. I ardently wish that the question could be settled by agreement and adjustment between the employers and the employed [cheers]; and a voice, "No one else has ought to do it" [cheers]. If it cannot be so settled, I shall be willing to be a party to some legislative enactment. I consider, that in the vote I shall give on the subject I may very likely go against the opinion of some of the masters—against some of the men; but I will leave myself at liberty with respect to both as I think the circumstances of the time and the real interests of both shall at the time require [loud cheers, and cries of, "We'll trust you with it"].

The Under-sheriff put the usual question, and a forest of hands appeared for Lord Morpeth: only seven dissentients were counted. Lord Morpeth returned thanks in a short speech; and at the close three cheers were given for "The League, Lord Morpeth, and the Queen!"

OFFICIAL AND PARLIAMENTARY RESIGNATIONS.

In our last number we mentioned that various members of the royal household, and several members of Parliament, had resigned in consequence of their disapproval of the free-trade measure of Sir R. Peel, or their views being opposed to their constituents. Amongst the former, were Lord Hardwicke, the Marquis of Exeter, and the Marquis of Granby; amongst the latter, Lord Ashley, and the Hon. Mr. Dawnay. To these have been added more resignations during the week.

Lord A. Lennox (brother to the Duke of Richmond) has been compelled, by the Protectionist leader, to forfeit his seat for Chichester, but still retains office at the Board of Ordnance. Lord Jocelyn was reported to have resigned office, but this is not correct, it is only his seat as an independent representative that he has been compelled to abandon in consequence of his conversion being displeasing to the Duke of Portland, virtual owner of the borough of Lynn. Two other members of the Government, viz., the Hon. Captain Gordon, a Lord of the Admiralty, and the Right Hon. Mr. Corry, First Secretary to the same Board, have retired. The cause of these resignations is not stated. Two members of the royal household must be noticed as having been scared from their situations by the Ministerial proposition. Rumour at least asserts as a fact, that Mr. O'Gore, and the Hon. Captain Arthur Duncombe, desire to withdraw. It is said, with respect to the Government, that Sir Peel, in alarm at the recent desertions, refuses to accept any more resignations.

Among the members of Parliament who are not allowed to retain their seats by the Monopolist patrons, the most conspicuous is the Secretary for Ireland, Sir Thomas Fremantle. He has received "notice to quit" the representation of Buckingham (the Duke's pocket borough); and as no immediate prospect of his obtaining another seat appears, Sir R. Peel has relieved him from the onerous duties of an Irish Secretary, and substituted for them the comparatively easy and retired functions of Chairman of the Customs' Commissioners.

Certain conscientious members, mindful of pledges in favour of protection, expressed or implied, have referred the matter to their constituents; but they have done so in very different fashions. In North Staffordshire, Mr. Watts Russell has met the electors face to face, declared his conversion to free-trade principles, announced that he shall vote for them, and promised to resign if called upon. Lord Ashley has resigned his seat for Dorsetshire, as Mr. Dawnay had resigned his for Rutland, in order to stand the test of a new election. Mr. Sturt, one of the members for Dorsetshire, has followed his colleague's (Lord Ashley) example. Mr. Townshend Mainwaring has done the same by the Denbighshire boroughs. Mr. Charteris and Mr. Wilson Patten have formally announced their conversion to the electors of East Gloucestershire and North Lancashire, and have offered to resign if called upon. Lord Henniker has given up East Suffolk.

LORD LINCOLN AND THE ELECTORS OF SOUTH NOTTS.—Lord Lincoln having vacated his seat for South Nottinghamshire, by accepting the office of Chief Secretary for Ireland, has issued an address to his constituents. His Lordship, it is known, is among the number of those who have changed their opinions on the subject of the corn-laws, and are now strenuous supporters of the new commercial policy. This change of opinion drew down upon him, but a few days ago, the wrath of the Nottinghamshire Agricultural Protection Society, who, in a resolution something stronger than remonstrance, demanded the immediate resignation of his seat. This he declares he should not have done, had not an event, unanticipated by the Protection Society, hastened the consummation so devoutly wished for. Lord Lincoln concludes his address by saying:—

Again, I must assure you that, after the imputations which have been cast upon my motives and my conduct, I hail with satisfaction an opportunity of appealing to your suffrages. I look forward with confidence to the result, and anticipate with no faltering hope my return to Parliament, for the sixth time, as your representative.

LORD COURTENAY, who is likely to be the new Secretary for Ireland, and who represents South Devonshire, has addressed the Exeter Agricultural Protection Society in reply to their inquiries as to the course he intended to adopt with reference to the free-trade measures of Sir R. Peel, and has declined to state, at the request of any Society, however numerous and respectable, what course he proposes to take in Parliament in regard to a particular measure, which, though submitted to the legislature, has not yet undergone full and careful discussion.

MR. CARTWRIGHT has retired from South Northamptonshire. He will come forward, after a dissolution of Parliament, as a Protectionist.

RESIGNATION OF LORD HENNIKER.—An address to the Electors of East Suffolk, from Lord Henniker, resigning into their hands the trust reposed in him as one of their representatives, will be found in our advertising columns. The "chip of the old block," E. S. Gooch, Esq., we learn, is about to issue an address, offering himself to the constituency under the patronage of the squirearchy and clergy; Mr. Long, of Hurts'-hall, it is said, intends to take the field against the youthful aspirant, also in the Conservative interest, but on anti-Maynooth principles. Mr. Adair, we should think, would have a chance of walking in between the two worthies, now that he has become a Free-trader, were he not booked for Cambridge.—*Suffolk Chronicle*.

ELECTION INTELLIGENCE.

THE MARQUIS OF CHANDOS (the Duke's eldest son) is likely to succeed Sir T. Fremantle in the representa-

tion of Buckingham. He has issued an address, soliciting the suffrages of the "worthy and independent electors."

LORD JOCELYN having announced his intention of retiring from the representation of King's Lynn, Mr. Benjamin Bond Cabbell [has consented to come forward, Mr. Wolverly Attwood having declined on account of ill health. A requisition, on the part of some of the Free-traders, has been sent to Lord Jocelyn, requesting him to contest the borough, and that his answer is looked for with intense expectation and interest.

REPRESENTATION OF CHICHESTER.—Lord Arthur Lennox has taken leave of his constituents in a farewell address, and Lord Henry Gordon Lennox (the Duke of Richmond's son) has offered himself as a candidate for the vacant seat. The *Times*' correspondent, writing on Monday, says:—

On Saturday night placards were posted up in different parts of the city, containing the ominous announcement that Mr. Falvey, of the Anti-corn-law League, would this evening deliver a public lecture on the principles of free-trade. In consequence of this, the impression gathers strength that the scene at the hustings to-morrow will not be so smooth as the Goodwood party desired and expected. The young Protectionist candidate will, it is believed be closely catechised upon the articles of his political faith, and, if not well up in his part, it is anticipated that he may find himself sufficiently embarrassed to repent being made a "dummy" for his ducal parent's opinions, and to wish that he was once more safely back to his desk in the office for Foreign Affairs. That appointment, I understand, he has resigned. As the canvass, or what is called a canvass, draws to a close, and the indignity which has been thrust upon the constituency approaches its consummation, the numbers of those inclined to speak out gradually increase. Time, the sense of shame, and the belief that they are strong enough to brave the Duke's anger, have in a certain measure restored the courage of the adverse party, and re-assured the fears of the faint-hearted. Yet the peculiar situation of political matters in this city will necessarily confine the steps taken to a mere demonstration of feeling at the hustings.

MANCHESTER.—Mr. Mark Phillips will retire from the representation of this borough at the next general election.

THE MARQUIS OF WORCESTER, son of the Duke of Beaufort, has consented to become a candidate for the representation of East Gloucestershire, in the anticipation that the electors will accept the tendered resignation of Mr. Charteris.

CASHEL ELECTION.—On Thursday, Alderman T. O'Brien (a Repealer) was elected M.P. for this borough, without opposition.

SELKIRKSHIRE ELECTION.—The choice lies between Mr. Elliot Lockhart, Protectionist, and Mr. Murray, Free-trader. The nomination took place on Friday. The sheriff, without taking a show of hands, asked if a poll was desired, when Mr. Pringle, on the part of Mr. Lockhart, demanded a poll. Great dissatisfaction being expressed at the sheriff's conduct, in departing from the usual custom, the Hon. Mr. Elliott, after that functionary had retired, asked for a show of hands, when only one was held up for Mr. Lockhart, and almost the entire assemblage for Mr. Murray. Three cheers were then given in rotation, on the motion of the Hon. Mr. Elliott, for the Lord Provost of Edinburgh, the free-trade Duke of Buccleuch, and the measure of Sir R. Peel. Mr. Murray protested against the validity of the proceedings, on account of a show of hands not being taken.

IMPENDING FAMINE IN IRELAND.

The report of the Commissioners of Inquiry into the matters connected with the failure of the potato crop in Ireland, was on Friday night laid on the table of the House of Commons by Sir J. Graham, at the request of Mr. O'Connell. It is dated from Dublin Castle, on the 20th January; and it will be seen from the subjoined summary, that the report suggests the utmost cause for alarm as to the extent and severity of the rapidly-approaching dearth in Ireland, and hints at a total inadequacy of resources to meet it.

The extent of the evil to be provided for is thus stated:—

It appears, from undoubted authority, that of thirty-two counties in Ireland, not one has escaped the failure in the potato crop; of 130 poor-law unions, not one is exempt; of 2,058 electoral divisions, above 1,400 are certainly reported as having suffered; and we have no certainty, until the receipt of the more minute returns now in progress of completion, that the remaining 600 have altogether escaped.

The difficulty of providing relief by means of employing labour is the greater that the disease is not continuous in any one district, but that exceptions occur, thus causing a difference in the circumstances of persons occupying the same locality. Great importance is attached by the commissioners to the existence of poor-houses. They mention that these asylums are not nearly full; but their progress towards repletion must be carefully noted as furnishing an index to the state of the union in which they are situated. The ordinary expenditure of the Irish poor-houses for a year is about £260,000; but the commissioners do not consider that the relief which the existing houses are capable of affording will be at all sufficient to meet the anticipated distress. As to the labour question, it also is beset with difficulties:—

In all cases of public distress it is necessary, as stated by the committee of 1822 (May 16), "to prefer small local undertakings," where employment in labour is to be given, "to those on a great scale. Works on a great scale have a tendency to invite an accumulation of numbers to a given spot, and, probably, to disappoint the greater part of them." That which is necessary on all such occasions is peculiarly necessary now.

Sir John McNeill estimates the distance to which the benefit of employment in public works extends at five miles only. On this branch of the relief question, the commissioners "entertain the greatest doubt whether any adjustment of public works can be made to meet the need wherever it may occur; and it must be met, or death from famine may be the result."

WELSH SKETCHES.

No. III.

In our last sketch we briefly described the condition of the freeholders, tradesmen, and farmers, of the principality; next, in point of order, stand the labourers, who form a numerous class, and from these, we may safely point to farm labourers, as being the worst paid of all the labourers in the country. There are very many at present, in different parts of Wales, who receive only 9d. or 10d. a day for their hard labour, but will receive in spring, about 1s. 3d., perhaps some will reach eighteen pence in summer, but with this pittance, it is difficult to imagine how they can manage to make both ends meet. Others receive six shillings a week. There are some who are fortunate enough to earn nine shillings a week through the year; their wages are paid partly in produce, partly by the carriage of fuel, ground to plant potatoes, or liberty to keep a few sheep on their employer's sheep-walks, and the remainder in money. Owing to the sobriety, and general good conduct of this class, they are generally contented. We do not think that they are much exposed to periods of distress, for they are always distressed, yet their distress is greatly mitigated by the neighbourly kindness for which the Welsh people are so proverbial. In some instances, they reside in cottages belonging to the farms on which they are employed, and a few have the privilege of keeping a cow, which greatly assists them in bringing up their youthful families. In Carmarthenshire, Pembrokeshire, and Anglesea, wages are much the same. In Merionethshire, Carnarvonshire, Breconshire, and Cardiganshire, there is a general equality; and, for most parts of the year, they seldom average above six shillings a week. By some writers, the labourers of Cardiganshire are described as the most ill-conditioned in the principality. Food is cheaper there, but it is coarse and unwholesome; the houses are mostly built of mud, or turf cemented or pasted with mud, and are thatched with straw. And here we must point again to the religious character of the Welsh people. This, in our opinion, is the only element which prevents such hovels from becoming habitations of misery. Many such houses may be seen on the Radnorshire hills, the western part of Carnarvonshire, the Garneidwen, between Bala and Dolgelly, Merionethshire, and the mountainous districts of Montgomeryshire. In traversing these localities for the first time, we could hardly persuade ourselves that such miserable huts were inhabited by human beings. We could mention several instances of houses without chimneys, without a pane of glass, and in some cases, without any apertures to admit light, besides the door, which we have seen plaited with twigs, and, in more than one instance, stuffed with moss. And yet, on entering these hovels, you are not startled by the appearance of that squalid misery which is said to prevail so extensively in Ireland, under similar circumstances. Within there is an appearance which contrasts most favourably with the outward aspect; the furniture is clean, and would do credit to houses more advantageously situated. It is possible that some of our English friends may deem the foregoing statements rather extravagant, but if they will come and see, we believe that they will be satisfied with their general correctness. On the boundaries of England, as well as in Denbighshire, farm labourers are better paid; but this is the exception, not the rule.

Carpenters, masons, blacksmiths, and shoemakers, are in a better condition, but in many instances are not so sober and industrious as farm labourers. Their earnings average from two shillings to three and sixpence a day. On the whole, they are considered inferior to the English in skill and exquisite workmanship, which arises, in our opinion, from the deficiency of the models which they study, and is not the effect of any mental inferiority. The prospects held out to them are not such as to induce them to make any extraordinary efforts for improvement.

Next to this class we must notice the miners, colliers, and quarrymen, who have good wages, but spend them in drunkenness and dissipation. The slate-quarrymen, in Carnarvonshire and Merioneth, are well paid, and those of them who live soberly are in comfortable circumstances. The same may be said of the colliers and miners who are found in Flintshire, Denbighshire, Breconshire, Glamorganshire, and the Monmouthshire hills. Many of them at present earn from £5 to £7 a week. But the land mourns on account of drunkenness. In Merthyr Tydvil alone, about £70,000 is annually spent in strong drinks. Of all the lords that profit at the expense of others, there is none so fortunate as the tavern landlord. He derives a princely revenue from fools' pence. And for the amusement of his customers, a fiddler or a harper, a giant or a dwarf, are in constant attendance. In the mining district, the publican generation is very wise. They invariably provide a club-room, and establish as many benefit societies as they possibly can. They have clubs for every emergency; and clubs turn out very profitable speculations to these traders in human depravity. The drinking system is studiously cultivated, so that it has managed to bring all social habits under its merciless fangs. If a house is licensed to be a public-house, the company must have an increase of £10 per annum in the ground rent. Drunkenness is the bane of these classes of the community. Their strength is wholly eaten up by the rapacious monster.

In the mining districts, those who are sober and industrious are in good circumstances. Their houses are small, and in general consist of only four rooms—a kitchen and a back kitchen, and two rooms upstairs. Their houses are well furnished, often with mahogany chest of drawers, mahogany tables and oak dressers, which are profusely

adorned with jugs, plates, brazen candlesticks, and tea trays. In general, also, there is a handsome clock and glazed cupboard.

Such is a short outline of the condition of the different classes of the inhabitants of Wales. In our future sketches, the reader will bear in mind, that poverty is the principal characteristic of the most substantial, moral, and numerous classes, who are the firmest and most unwavering friends of religion. Let this be borne in mind, and the efforts of the religious public in Wales, will appear surprising.

CELEBRATION OF THE BIRTH-DAY OF ROBERT BURNS AT JEDBURGH.

(From a Correspondent.)

On the evening of the 26th ult. the anniversary of the Scottish bard was celebrated in this place by a literary *soirée*. Upwards of 140 persons of both sexes sat down to tea, comprising the most intelligent of the working men of the town and neighbourhood. The chair was filled by a working man, who delivered a very effective address in behalf of the intellectual rights of his class, and the diffusion of knowledge in general, at the same time doing ample homage to the memory of the poet who had sprung from the humble ranks of life, and was to be remembered as the intellectual chief and prophet-mind of his order. The meeting was favoured with addresses from several other persons, including a very brilliant poetical address from James Scott, apprentice smith, in the neighbouring village of Lanton. It may possibly be remembered that we noticed, in the *Nonconformist*, the appearance of this young man, in a short account of a similar meeting which took place last year. It was on that occasion that he stepped from the quiet precincts of his secluded village, and astonished the young men of Jedburgh by a powerful address in rhythm, containing some remarkable indications of power and poetry. It consisted of eighty stanzas, and was nearly all composed and revised from memory, before being delivered. Since the *Nonconformist* has opened a poet's corner, we may probably be allowed to give a verse or two, which will show that the clink and clang of the anvil can beat chorus to more ambitious fancies than what are afforded amid the gossip of a country smiddy.

Introducing the rise of Burns' fame among his "repentant people," he exclaims—

But hark! a voice comes o'er the awakening earth!
Quickly it flies o'er every hill and plain,
Sadness is joy, and care is turn'd to mirth;
It says, "He died, but ne'er shall die again!"
He lives, the Banks of Ayr and Doon proclaim;
He lives, the "Mountain Daisy" quick replies;
He lives, I hear a field-mouse hiss his name;
He lives, a wounded hare says, as it dies.

He lives, with song a nation is delighted;
He lives, old Alloway Kirk, a beacon flame;
He lives, for now his genius is requited;
He lives, emblazon'd on the scrolls of fame.
He lives, the monument is rear'd aloft;
He lives, behold the festival's in sight;
He lives, in every house, by printer craft;
He lives, 'tis he has call'd us here to-night.

But why should all this honour be conferr'd
On a poor peasant whom the rich deride—
The youth a plough-boy, and the man a trade
That's almost scorn'd by every trade beside?

Oh, if the touchstone of humanity
Can call forth a response within our breast;
Oh, if kind pity is not vanity,
Or if fine feeling is not earthly dust;
Or if the soul, in its high moral might,
Holds independent feeling still most dear;
Or if the badge of liberty and right
Is still what every honest heart would wear;—

Or if affection's heaven-forged chain can bind
Heart unto heart in sacred union still;
If its pure holy flame, with touch refined,
Softens our hearts, and all base thoughts can quell;—

Then Burns—poor Burns—how much we owe to thee,
Child of the skies, though erring son of earth,
The memory—offering that we pay to thee,
Accept in token that we know thy worth, &c., &c.

Apostrophising the impersonation of selfishness, he thus brings home something of what the poet's generous page can teach:—

Hast thou a heart? Did e'er a kindly glow
Burst from its portals outward on thy brother?
Or have thy feelings all an inward flow?
Art thou a stranger how to feel for others?

Man of the button-bound universe! Read on.
The scroll of destiny, by Burns unfurled,
Tells thee thou liv'st not for thyself alone,
But for the good and progress of a world!

The burden of the poem forms no indiscriminate eulogy upon Robert Burns, but contains a candid admission of his strayings from wisdom's way. Towards the close we have a winding-up of the different phases of the poet's strain, but must content ourselves to quote as follows:—

Heaven's gates unfold, Night, wrapt in darkness, flies—
The sun appears, the cloud with glory burns!
Nature is glad, her songs of joy arise,
But with her harp awakes the harp of BURNS!

Where shines the sun? High is his flaming globe;
He reigns alone, the emperor of the sky;
Fierce is his sway; man's sweating temples throb,
The trees are scorched, the rivers are run dry!

But in man's heart flames a far fiercer fire—
There passion's incense curls in spirit air,
The altar glows, the sacred fumes inspire—
Burns is the priest who sacrifices there.

On this last occasion of the festival, Scott made an excellent appearance. The interest excited by his address of last year had made him to be looked forward to with much interest, especially among the young men who enjoy his friendship; and the rapturous applause which greeted him during the delivery of that to which we will now shortly allude, testified to the honest pride with which he is viewed. After introducing the name of the poet, and touching on the celebrated Burns' Festival held at Ayr in August, 1844, he thus proceeds:—

And Time hath seen, upon a lesser scale,
In Jedburgh town, where Jed expands her vale,
A year ago this night our little band,
Big, big at heart, met for the self-same end;
And Time now sees us met, to lay once more
Our annual tribute genius' shrine before;
Our strength increased, our relish keener whet,
With brighter hopes upon the future set.

But not to Robert Burns alone will we
Award the meed of well-earn'd eulogy.
No! Pile the fuel, rouse the roaring flames,
And sacrifice to other noble names.
Who'er with helping hand his mite hath brought
To rear on high the starry tower of thought,
Better'd the heart—clear'd the clouded eyes—
Aided the soul of man to scale the skies—
Swept the bold lyre that thrill'd a nation's heart,
And made a dreaming world to life upstart!

Following out this proposed plan, he unfolds a series of portraits of the illustrious men of ancient and modern times, and applies with considerable power the great moral which the lives of men of genius and moral heroism should teach to the generations who enjoy their rich bequeathments. We have the names of Shakspeare, Milton, Cowper, Burns, Scott, his own Teviot-dale Leyden, Wilson, Thomson, Campbell; and in another category those of Hampden, Algernon Sidney, Wilberforce, Howard, Channing, Washington, Franklin, Bryant, Emerson, and others. But the circle of human genius does not comprehend the more lordly sex alone; and here we have a noble vindication of the mind and rights of woman, sweet-scented as the hay-fields which crowd up to the thatch-eaves of the author's rural home:—

But there's another and large class to name,
Which to cast by would cast dishonouring shame
Upon our muse, while thus she fitful strays,
Did Woman's merit not excite our praise.
Joan of Arc, or Saragossa's maid,
Or brave Grace Darling, justly might upbraid
Man's boasted courage upon danger's brink—
These show'd she'd power to act—can she not think?
Hath woman never ope'd the seals of thought,
Hath she ne'er in the loom of fancy wrought,
Hath she ne'er climb'd the steep Parnassian hill,
Or at the stream of knowledge drank her fill?
Go ask the press—hear how its voice declares,
Though great Man's works, they scarce can outmatch hers.
Who ne'er Felicia Hemans' pathos felt,
That down to tears the very soul can melt?
Go, and a Norton's touching page explore,
Learn wisdom from the vigorous Hannah More.
Go read the works, then feel the magic spell,
Of these initials—Oh, poor L. E. L. !
Go! Mary Howitt will thy soul inspire
With thrilling feeling and pure moral fire;
Go read the works, and feel the powerful glow
Of the bright-fancied Harriet Martineau;
Then read Sigourney, Taylor, Mitford's, Cook's,
And Lady Blessington and Porter's books.
Do they not show warm hearts, and minds as strong
As to their often-boasting lords belong?
Go, Spirit that o'er Hades' shades holds sway,
And drag Mahomet to the realms of day.
Bring him again upon life's active stage—
Open the volume of the present age,
And read its history and its features o'er—
Show him the works we've named, and countless more
That load our shelves; then ask if Woman now
Hath found the soul he would not her allow?
Or seems she not for higher ends design'd
Than passion's plaything or a source of kind?
Show him a Somerville—effect and cause
She well explains—unfolding nature's laws
In truth sublime that on her reason beam'd
Of which his age's solons never dream'd—
Show him a Stiel, and she'll prove to be
A wiser politician far than he;
A Reid or Ellis, and they'll prove they know
Woman has rights, and can assert them too;
Take him to Lowell—many a factory girl,
'Mid its machinery's din and rattling whirl,
Will show a mind can burst through all its bars—
On wings of thought soar higher than the stars.
Convinced—give him his Koran and a pen,
To blotch and write some doctrines o'er again.
Altered—that man has not a soul alone;
Woman has one immortal as his own.
Then send him back with hints to revise,
And eke improve his sensual paradise.

Scott was most rapturously cheered at the conclusion of his address. The ladies who were present seemed to appreciate highly their youthful vindicator.

The meeting was enlivened by instrumental and vocal music, in which the melodies of the peasant were not forgotten, and the whole passed off in a manner which spoke the high superiority of these festive occasions over the more questionable displays of social enjoyment in which intoxicating liquors form so unworthy an element.

TRIAL OF CAPTAIN JOHNSTONE FOR ALLEGED MURDER ON BOARD THE SHIP TORY.—This extraordinary trial commenced before Mr. Justice Williams and Mr. Justice Cresswell, at the Central Criminal Court on Thursday. The trial occupied two days—Thursday and Friday. The evidence was similar to that adduced before the police magistrate. No witnesses were called for the defence; but the cross-examination was directed to elicit evidence that the crew had been mutinous, and that Mr. Johnstone was insane when he committed those acts of outrageous violence with which he was charged. Such was the defence advanced by his counsel; who ascribed the prisoner's insanity to the mutiny, to the fear of losing the valuable cargo belonging to the owners, and to the hardships of short provisions. The tameness with which the crew submitted to the master's violence was referred to as the sign of a guilty consciousness of their mutiny. The jury returned a verdict of acquittal, on the ground of insanity. Other indictments against the prisoner were abandoned by the Crown; but he was ordered to be detained in safe custody.

SPONTANEOUS COMBUSTION.—AN EXTRAORDINARY CASE.—A correspondent describes to us a very singular case of spontaneous combustion, for which, perhaps, some of our scientific friends can account. A fine beast upon the farm of C. T. Tower Esq., at South Weald, was choked by eating mangold wurzel, and was sent to the premises of Mr. Bell, butcher, of Brentwood, to be killed. On cutting the throat of the animal a body of blue flame rushed out four or five feet high, singeing the whiskers of the butchers employed, and sending them scampering back with alarm. The hypothesis of the learned in such matters in the neighbourhood is, that gas had been generated in the stomach of the animal, which from its peculiar nature exploded in coming in contact with the air.—*Essex Herald.*

OUR GLORIOUS CONSTITUTION.—By the present system of representation a majority of the House of Commons is actually elected by not more than one-fifth of the registered electors of Great Britain! That one-fifth, or about 200,000 voters, forms about the thirty-third part of the entire male adult population, whose lives, properties, and liberties, are thus entirely at the mercy of this small minority.

LITERATURE.

THE PERIODICALS. (FEBRUARY.)

THE BRITISH QUARTERLY, with which we propose to open this month's notice of the periodicals, maintains a very respectable position amongst the fraternity to which it belongs. The present number is fully up to the mark of its reputation. Its articles are varied, able, carefully written, generally interesting, and, on the whole, approaching in tone much nearer to what we think required by the wants of the age, than from the original prospectus, we had anticipated. Its "short criticisms on books," sixty-two in number, —a valuable feature in this review—are kindly, but discriminating, sober, and impartial. The main fault of the publication is its lack of brilliancy. It has nothing in it to relieve its pervading heaviness—nothing of the light and sparkling—no coruscations—no outbursts of any kind—in a word, nothing which might properly be described by the word *genius*. It is a very *gentlemanly*, intelligent, plegmatic companion, discoursing always well, sometimes eloquently, about men and things, but usually dealing with its topics in a style which, although it does not produce drowsiness, never fascinates the attention. You are neither shocked on the one hand, nor astonished on the other. You are not bored, but neither are you moved to rapture. You can go through with it, and, if you have time, you probably will, not without instruction and gratification—but you are not allured through it, in spite of yourself. All the articles in the present number are good—that on "*Carlyle's Cromwell*," save for the soreness of the offended historian which it displays, is, in the main, just, both to Carlyle and to his hero—and that on the *German Catholic Church*, one of the very best we have seen on the subject. "*Chaucer*" has considerable interest, but is not so racy as it might have been—and "*Melancthon*" is too much in the style of an apology to give a striking portrait of the gentle-spirited reformer. From the article on Cromwell we give a brief extract, the truth of which all men admit, and all, but a few, very partially apply:—

TREATMENT OF TRUE HEROES.

The man who becomes the servant of the public is often made to feel that he serves a fickle and an ungrateful master. He has often to prosecute his plans amidst the hesitations of the timid, the coldness of the selfish, the neutralities of the indolent, and amidst the petty censoriousness to which the necessities of self-defence are always prompting such people. Over a large surface, moreover, he will be regarded as the invader of great interests, real or imaginary, and will be misunderstood, calumniated, wronged. If he would be steadfast to his purpose, he must not seem to see half the childishness, nor half the ingratitude, which will be betrayed in quarters whence better things might have been expected. It will be well if some of his worst enemies are not found in such connexions. In this necessity of forbearance, in this endurance of gross injustice, we see a part of the mule which the man must be content to pay who would do some great thing. Like that Great One, who came to our earth that he might be by eminence the benefactor of our species, such a man must be prepared to endure contradiction against himself from the foolish and the base, and be resolved to serve such even against their will. The history of great men is full of lessons to this effect. In modern times they are nowhere so prominent as in the life of Cromwell. At the close of his career he might have said of himself—have said, too, without arrogance—no man ever did so much to serve his country and found so sorry a return. Nor have matters improved much in this respect during the long interval since his decease. It is only within the last quarter of a century that any approach to a fair hearing of his case has been conceded in our dominant literature. Indeed, were he to return to us again, we are not sure that the verdict would be so flattering as some men presume, even among those who now daub him with much praise.

THE NORTH BRITISH scarcely gets above the average this month. We need not give a catalogue of its articles, deeming it sufficient to note those which have most interested us. "*Australia*" is from a competent hand, a clear head, and a generous heart. It vindicates the rights of the aborigines, in opposition to the doctrines of land-sharking companies: points out the causes of that ruin which has overtaken the colonies founded in this quarter of the globe, and suggests the direction in which remedies should be sought. "*The Despatches and Letters of Lord Nelson*" are made the groundwork of a searching and damning investigation of the profligacy of that favourite naval hero, truce-breaker, and murderer. It places Nelson foremost in the list of cold-blooded villains. "*Letters and Speeches of Oliver Cromwell*," the first of Carlyle's works which has claimed notice at the hands of the Free Church organ, offer an occasion which has been seized, for discussing the merits and demerits of this most powerful of living writers. The article is not destitute of value; but it will do but little, we fear, to turn back the strong current of Carlyleism which is just now sweeping our intelligent youth into the jaws of a senseless Pantheism. The thing, perhaps, is not to be done by a review; it wants a volume. And that man who, admitting all that is honest, true, and healthful in Carlyle and Emerson, would just turn their philosophy and religion inside out, and throw upon it the light of reason, to say nothing of revelation, would do a service to the present age. We are glad to have from such a quarter this testimony to the reality of

CROMWELL'S RELIGION.

The conclusion, therefore, that we draw is, that Cromwell's religious feelings were not only sincere, but formed the great prevailing motive of his conduct in life. It was for this at the first that he took up arms; and in this feeling, under different modifications, the secret will be found of all the great passages in his life. Thus, his assumption of the power of the Protectorate, is not, as we think, to be explained by the mere hypothesis of personal ambition. We think,

that at that period he believed himself called to be the instrument of a great work. He saw the Parliament wasting their strength, and endangering the security of the nation, in vain disputations, whilst royalist intrigue was rapidly undermining their stability. He saw, on the other part, that he had the power in his own hand, and perhaps the sole power, of averting these calamities; and, therefore, seeing no other deliverance, he seems to have felt impelled not to cast away the opportunity which Providence seemed to have put within his grasp. There may have been in this a greater or less degree of enthusiasm, or self-delusion; nor, perhaps, was he unwilling to regard that as a duty to which his ambition or inclination prompted. But, even in his most private letters, written during the period of the Protectorate, there is a deep cast of pain and care, as if he would fain throw off his harness, and be free and at rest once more, if his duty to the state did not require his continued exertions; and we find nothing in any of his correspondence like complacency, or even comfort, in his wonderful elevation.

THE PROSPECTIVE REVIEW, also a quarterly, although smaller in dimensions than most of its *confrères*, is not specially interesting. It is remarkably appropriate, and all that—but remarkably dry and dull. Its virtues are all of the negative order—a characteristic of the theological school which it represents. The present number touches, of course, as do all other reviews, upon Cromwell, and does justice to his sincerity. We have no space for extracts.

THE ECLECTIC REVIEW, although good, is not in its best feather this month. "*The Writings and Times of Bunyan*," "*Mitchell's Memoir of Napoleon*," "*The Life of Blanco White*," and "*The British Anti-State Church Association*," are the best articles. To the last we would especially direct attention. Clear, calm, but faithful, it vindicates the movement from the calumnies of the designing, as well as from the fears of the timid—and, if read by those to whom it is principally addressed, will go far, we hope, either to convince or to silence them. The following extract we take to be a sufficient answer to Lieut. Col. Mitchell, who endeavours to prove that Napoleon was no genius, and that his success was rather a matter of chance than otherwise:—

CHANCE VERSUS GENIUS.

Unlimited by any positive boundary as are the possibilities, by which knowledge and talent may be disappointed of success, and ignorance raised to prosperity by the effects of what may be denominated chance, there are still degrees to which men will never admit the operation of these principles. It would be impossible, for instance, to induce any general belief, that Philidor won his games through the intervention of chance working in favour of a most ill-disposed head for chess; or that the mariner who guides his vessel to a hair's-breadth during a shifting storm, is a specimen of what the first landsman who should be put into his place would do as well if he had only fortune. Men are so well known to do their best to store and acquire skill in the several arts from which they expect comfort or aggrandisement, that to imagine the director of a hundred battles so little improved by practice as that his "dull mind" should have a difficulty in comprehending that when, for instance, he saw Moscow turning into ashes before him, affairs were going ill with him, is a demand on the acquiescence of the company, which would not be complied with if the weapons were cricket-balls, and the stake a tavern dinner. That millions of men should have been filled with the belief, that an individual had done for them what, whether good or evil in itself, called on them to jeopard their lives gladly in his cause; that this faith should have survived misfortune upon misfortune, and when the object has been for twenty years removed by death, should even yet be half-disposed to rally about everything bearing the name or the appearance of connexion with the original stock; that this should be, and be all wrong and a mistake, an effusion of reverence for talent which never existed, and of gratitude for advantages which anybody else could equally have bestowed—is what, in the naval metaphor, may be told to the amphibious marines, but will have no chance for acceptance among those whose wits have been sharpened by a more regular apprenticeship to the seamanship of life.

THE MAGAZINES are about as usual—neither above nor below par. We cannot pretend to dissect them *seriatim*. Cromwell is the standing topic. We think our readers will be much better pleased with a few extracts.

THE FIRE AND THE WORM.

A converted Indian was asked how he knew that he had experienced a change of heart. He gave no answer. He was asked if he saw the power.

"No."

"Did you hear it?"

"No."

"Did you feel it?"

"Yes."

"Well, then, cannot you describe your feelings?"

He paused a moment, and then, kneeling upon the sand, made a small circle of chips and dry leaves. He then got a little worm, and placed it inside the ring, and with a spark from his pipe lighted his pile. The poor worm, when it began to feel the heat, crept first to one point then to another, and at last, after many ineffectual attempts to get out, finding that the flames completely surrounded it, crawled to the centre, as if in despair, and coiled itself up, awaiting the result. When it began to feel the heat too sensibly, the Indian took it in his fingers and placed it without the ring in safety.

"Now," said he, "I will explain my meaning. I was like that poor worm; the fires of hell were burning around me—they began to scorch me—I ran every way—I drank fire-water—I tried hunting, everything; but could not get out. At last I threw myself down and tried to pray, and then God stretched forth his hand, and lifting me forth, gave me rest. Now," said he, "I cannot explain it any better. I cannot tell you how it was done, but I felt a change, and I know it was so."—*Christian Treasury*.

KNIBB'S FILIAL AFFECTION.

After one of the jubilee services at Kettering, when the multitude had been thrilled with his eloquence, Knibb found me talking with friends, and, placing his arm within mine, said, "Stovel, I want you to go with me to my mother's grave—will you go?" "With all my heart," was the reply; and, with another friend, we walked together up the street, towards the churchyard. As we passed along, he stopped suddenly where the main roads cross in the town, and directed my attention to a window on a second floor looking down the street to where we stood. "There," he said, "do you see that window with the muslin blind?" I replied, "Yes." "Well," he said, "my mother lived there

when I left her. We had parted, and I had come down into the street here to go to Jamaica, to take charge of my brother's school, who was dead. She put her head out of the window and called after me, 'William! William, mind, William, I had rather hear that you had perished in the sea, than that you had dishonoured the society you go to serve.' I never forgot those words—they were written on my heart." We passed on, talking of the effects which such a sentiment had in fostering his courage and zeal at different periods of his trial and labour. As we ascended the rising path which slopes down the side into the street, when drawing near to the gate of the churchyard, he stopped, and said, "How unchanged the things are! That stone stands at the side of the path just as it did when I used to strike my marbles against it. See, they used to bound and roll down there." On entering the grave-yard he became filled with awe, and walking up to his mother's grave, he stood, as if in the act of worship, and after a while said, "There she lies. See, there's her name. She died Jan. 25, 1835. She was such a mother! I wish my children were here, Stovel, to sprinkle some flowers on her grave." His expressions were calm, and at considerable intervals. My attention was fixed on him; and the thing which struck me most forcibly, was the fact, that in mind's which are suited to great and daring actions, the main spring lies in these sensibilities of the heart, which are kindled and augmented by domestic piety."—Pp. 19, 20.—*Stovel's Funeral Sermon, reviewed in the Baptist Magazine*.

SOCIAL ORDER.

But out of this state of things, there is no doubt that serious danger is arising. Social order—to use the term without the smallest mixture of the irreverence which the use made of the phrase by interested parties has sometimes thrown about it—is of greater delicacy of constitution than some can comprehend. It is a faith, a persuasion—if anybody thinks the thing invulnerable, it is a prejudice. Men go on in a certain order because they think everybody else will. It resembles the case of the man in blue, who goes and is hanged quietly because the man in red tells him so. If he conceived the idea, that things might possibly not go on in the expected order, he would doubtless strike out for his own interests in such way as should present itself to his mind. Just so it is with the interests of greater bodies. All kinds of possible perturbations of the existing order are seen pressing on in the rear of the agitation on the corn-laws. No man feels bound to be hanged, or starved either, on the strength of the connexion between what might have been expected last year, and what may be expected this. There is a panic, as when an earthquake has given its warning shudder; and nobody has any distinct idea of what is coming next, except that he feels an unwonted predilection for the open field.

This state of things is what a wise Ministry should put an end to. There is no use in attempting it now, by any nice fence on the subject of protection, or the propriety of keeping out unlicensed food. The parties are in presence, fierce, and with protruded stings; and none can tell how far the havoc may extend, unless the Minister applies the "little cast of sand," which shall put an end to the "*horrida bella*" by removing the object of contention.—*Wade's London Review*.

HOW TO IMPROVE THE APPETITE.

King Henry VIII., as he was hunting in Windsor Forest, either casually lost, or (more probably) wilfully losing himself, struck down about dinner-time to the Abbey of Reading, where, disguising himself (much for delight, more for discovery, to see, unseen), he was invited to the abbot's table, and passed for one of the King's guard; a place to which the proportion of his person might properly entitle him. A sirloin of beef was set before him (so knighted, saith tradition, by this King Henry), on which the King laid on lustily, not disgracing one of that place, for whom he was mistaken. Well fare thy heart, quoth the abbot; and here in a cup of sack, I remember the health of his grace your master. I would give an hundred pounds, on the condition I could feed so heartily on beef, as you do. Alas! my weak and queasy stomach will hardly digest the wing of a small rabbit or chicken. The King pleasantly pledged him, and heartily thanked him for his good cheer; after dinner departed, as undiscovered as he came thither. Some weeks after the abbot was sent for a pursuivant, brought up to London, clapped in the Tower, kept close prisoner, fed for a short time on bread and water; yet not so empty his body of food as his mind was filled with fears, creating many suspicions to himself when and how he had incurred the King's displeasure. At last a sirloin of beef was set before him, on which the abbot fed as the farmer of his grange and verified the proverb, that two hungry meals make the third a glutton. In springs King Henry out of a private lobby, where he had placed himself, the invisible spectator of the abbot's behaviour. "My lord," quoth the King, "presently deposit your hundred pounds in gold, or else no going hence all the days of your life. I have been your physician, to cure you of your queasy stomach; and here, as I deserve, I demand my fee for the same." The abbot down with his dust, and glad he had escaped so, returned to Reading; as somewhat lighter in his purse, so much more merrier in heart, than when he came thence.—*Knight's Penny Magazine*.

We would just say one word of *Knight's Penny Magazine*. It is a very valuable contribution to the literature which goes under the prefix "Penny"—well conceived, and admirably executed. Of the same enterprising publisher's "*Political Dictionary*," now coming out in monthly parts, it is unnecessary to repeat our recommendation.

DOUGLAS JERROLD'S SHILLING MAGAZINE we cannot dismiss without emphatic praise. The high moral purpose of most of the papers contained in it, makes us anxious to see the work in every hand in the empire. "*The Confessions of Richard Grainger*" are most touching, and paint to the life the misery which follows crime as harder to be borne than all the calamities which external circumstances may heap upon us. We must content ourselves with a single quotation from the "*Hedgehog Letters*." It holds up

THE DUTY OF WOMAN IN RELATION TO WAR.

Bless their little satisfied souls! how they do love the military, to be sure! What a beautiful thing is a review to 'em—isn't it? And how they'll smile upon cannon-balls as if they were things to eat—and how they'll wink their precious eyes in the breast-plates of the dear officers, more than if they stared in their own looking-glasses! And then, in their little puffed-up hearts, they think no more of a man than of a barn-door fowl, if he isn't a soldier. But only put a feather in his cap—red cloth and gold lace on his body—roll him tight round with a sash (the babe of glory!)—and let a long sword dangle by his side—and to woman's heart, what a dear peacock the sweet fellow is! She could follow him all over the world; his feathers are

so fine, and he does strut so beautifully! And in this way, Ebenezer, do women again and again make themselves parties to war and wickedness! In their hearts, to be sure, they don't mean it. They'll faint, some of 'em, to see a cut finger; but then a review only shows the frippery of war—without the blood. The music's beautiful, and there's no call then for lint.

Sometimes, Ebenezer, we hear of plans to raise woman in what they call the social scale. I've no objection, I'm sure; and should very well like to see the plan tried. Nevertheless, I do think, when I reflect upon the mischief of war,—I do think that woman might give man a lift. But then she is such an odd, contradictory thing! Else, at once, she'd set her precious face against cutting throats, and wouldn't think slaughter a bit the better, because done by nice young men in red coats, with colours flying, and trumpets braying.

(By the bye, Ebenezer, when I think of what the trumpet really does—how it sets man upon man—and makes blood burn against blood—braying seems a capital word for it. Isn't it odd, too—and there's some meaning in it, depend on't—that a trumpet and a jackass are the only things that bray?)

Now, here's a chance for women, Ebenezer! If they'd only follow the example of my cousin Johanna! (What a member of Parliament that girl would have made!) She was going to be married to Samson Cream, a young man in the perfumery line. They were so near it, that if the ring wasn't bought, they'd often (through the windows) looked at it. Well, he's very bad with this militia disease—this scarlet fever: and in the pride of his powder-puff heart, told Johanna that he'd no doubt he should be a corporal. Wherefore, the girl at once told him, that he must either give up all thoughts of pipeclay or of her—that she'd never take a cartridge-box to her arms—and when she married would, by no means, have a husband with feathers. So if Samson won't consent to moulting, he loses Johanna. The girl's only a maid-of-all-work—but may my mare break her knees again, if she isn't a pattern for countesses. I'm sure of it: if the women were resolutely to take the matter in hand, they might put an end to war all over the world. And they ought to do it: 'twould be the prettiest feather in the prettiest cap they could wear—that feather they might sport to their honour and glory. But I contend that it's women's own work—what they call her "mission"—if properly understood. Let me explain.

Here's a baby born. A little, helpless, crying thing, that's made a love of from the first minute—and bringing, who shall say, what a heap of love with it? Well, the pretty little animal is carefully swaddled, and powdered, and all sorts of care taken of it—the thing becoming in a very little time such a treasure, that the Bank of England wouldn't be taken for it. And this thing—that there's been such fear and such hope about, and such a lot of love—with its first tooth, and its measles, and its running alone—and its teaching it to kneel upon mother's lap and say the "Belief" and the "Lord's Prayer,"—this blessed thing has only been begotten, and born, and nursed, and taught, to be cut in two with a broadsword, or blown to pieces with cannon shot. Is it Christian-like—is it even sensible—to beget children to do and suffer such devils' work? Depend upon it, if women knew their true dignity, as it's called—they wouldn't suffer it. No: they'd think better of what they were meant for, and wouldn't bear children for bayonets and bullets. Some of these days, Ebenezer, they may think of these things; but at present, a woman will run after gunpowder, just as puss will run after valerian.

From THE ALMANAC OF THE MONTH, which overruns with wit, we select the following

UNREPORTED EXHIBITION OF THE MONTH.

We are astonished that no notice has been taken of the following exhibition, especially by the fashionable papers. We will proceed to remedy with our steel-pen the ungallant omission.

The competitors were arranged in a handsome drawing-room, in one of the most fashionable houses in the most fashionable street in May Fair. Beautiful velvet cushions had been provided for the dogs; whilst the cats reclined at their ease on the loveliest Cashmere shawls.

At one o'clock the carriages besieged the door-knocker with interminable rat-tat-tats, which fortunately did not disturb the anxious beasts up stairs, as care had been taken by the ladies of the committee to silence the noisy knocker by giving it previously a good leathering.

On entering the room, the visitor could not fail being astonished with the frequent exclamations of "What a duck!" and "Oh! the little dear!" But, on looking around him, he would quickly perceive that those terms of admiration, extravagant as they sounded to be, were richly merited by the lovely objects that graced the exhibition.

Perhaps it will be better to take the prizes in their numerical order, lest, by mixing the dogs and cats together, we get into such a state of noise and confusion as not to know where we are.

First of all, the great attraction of the room was a Blenheim 3-year-old. He was curled up in an elegant basket, lined with white satin picked out with pink rosettes. He weighed 18lbs., and had been fed on chicken, *riz au lait*, and aldermen's thumbs. This splendid little creature, who was so fat that he could not see the macaroons that were being offered to him on all sides, carried off the gold collar and bells, and a prize of £10 10s. 8d.

SECOND PRIZE.—BIJOU. A real pug, fed by Lady Molly Cobbles. Its nose was the theme of universal admiration. It was carried in her ladyship's carriage from Russell-square to the door of the exhibition, and walked the remainder of the distance. Had been fatted upon twenty-seven sweet-breads, three hundred sponge-cakes, and two quarts a day of calf's-foot jelly. It weighed, with its tail, 23lbs.

THIRD PRIZE.—TOM. A splendid Angola cat, two years old, the property of the Duchess of Wulga. It was white all over, with the exception of its nose, which was slightly red. Brought up by the Duchess's own hand, and fed upon the very best. A silver collar, and the book of beauty.

FOURTH PRIZE.—TITI. A short-eared tabby. Its hair was three inches long, and it measured a yard from head to tail. Its tail specially recommended.

FIFTH PRIZE.—CHOUCHOU.—A French poodle, with powdered, curly hair, dressed by Monsieur Anatole. It could stand on its legs and point to the prettiest woman in the room. It could whistle, and dance the polka. Fed upon anything it could get. The property of Lady Embden Grote. Honourably mentioned.

SIXTH PRIZE.—FLORA. A beautiful little spaniel, who was warranted to stand at a carriage-window two hours at one sitting. It had walked all the way up stairs. Fed by Miss Pamby's page, off broken victuals and maids of honour.

SEVENTH PRIZE.—NAPOLEON. A true King Charles—with ears so long they got between his legs and tripped him up. Fed on sugar, truffles, oysters, macaroni, and stewed prunes. Weighed 24 lbs., and only 22 months old. The property of a royal head. The prize of a rosewood kennel, with damask hangings, and a gold chain.

There were other prizes, but they were mere shadows

when put by the side of the more successful beasts, who certainly were little monsters of fat—perfect canine and feline Daniel Lamberts. We are glad to state, that every attention was paid to them, for allowing themselves to be torn from their comfortable homes for the purpose of being exhibited. Refreshments were served to them three times a day, and warm shawls distributed to those who were at all delicate. Notwithstanding this careful solicitude on the part of the lady who kindly lent her drawing-room for the show, we regret to state, that a lovely little pug—the most beautiful mongrel that was ever seen—died in the course of the day, owing, it was said, to the change of atmosphere. The general impression, however, seemed to be, that the unfortunate dog, who only weighed 20 lbs. 6 oz. and 2 pennyweights, had not had enough to eat. Dowager Susan Damer Damer has been inconsolable ever since the loss of "her only comfort."

HORACE MAYHEW.

GLEANINGS.

Peter Parley's real name is Samuel Griswold Goodrich. He is the son of a clergyman of Connecticut, a state which has sent forth more literary men than any other in America.

NOVEL NEWSPAPER.—It is said that the waggons that are to convey the Mormons to California will number five thousand, and will form a line twenty-five miles long! In the front there will be a press and types, from which will be issued every morning a paper, to be sent back to inform the rear-guard what is going on in the van!

The number of converts to the Roman Catholic religion from the upper ranks of society, during the last few months, now exceeds 100. Nearly forty are clergymen.

The Hull Packet states, that two provisional committees of Hull have each been served with about one hundred writs!

SIR ROBERT PEEL.—Thursday last was the anniversary of the natal day of Sir Robert Peel, who has now completed the 58th year of his age.

Amongst the marvels of the present unseasonable weather recorded in the papers, is the fact that, at West Cowes, there are green peas in pod.

The Stamford Mercury announces, that in a garden at the west end of that town, small gooseberries have been actually gathered for domestic use.

The Post-office authorities have discovered that spurious postage stamps, to a considerable amount, have been issued in London.

COURT IRONY.—The Duke of Richmond has asked—"Why Mr. Cobden is not made a peer?" We can at once detect the artifice of his grace. He would raise Cobden to the peerage, as he feels the only chance of making him powerless and ridiculous is to make him—a duke.—Punch.

One of the New York papers, just received, under a flaming head, "Preparation for War," seriously gives the extract from Punch touching the fourpenny steam-boat captains having had a hint from official quarters to keep up their crews to the full complement of three men and a boy!

NEW INVENTION.—By the monthly list of registrations under the act for protecting new and original designs for articles of utility, we learn that a registration has been effected by a firm in London, of "an instrument for holding up ladies' dresses."

THE GREAT SEA SERPENT FOUND AT LAST.—A letter from Gottingen announces that M. Koch, a geologist of that city, has just discovered in the United States, in the state of Alabama, at a depth of 111 feet below the surface of the ground, the complete skeleton of an antediluvian serpent, 114 French feet (121 feet six inches English) long, the vertebrae of which are from 24 to 30 inches high, and 18 in circumference. M. Koch is of opinion that the animal must have lived in the sea, and that it was carnivorous. He proposes to give it the name of Achihydra.

CURIOUS LEGACY.—The late John Orr, Esq., of Madras, in addition to £1,000 left to Montrose infirmary, has also left £1,000 to the neighbouring parish of St. Cyrus, the interest of which is to be annually distributed under the following rather whimsical terms, viz.:—interest of £200 to be distributed among the poor in tea, sugar, &c., at Christmas; interest of £800, in equal proportions, to the "tallest married woman in the parish, the shortest married woman in the parish, the oldest married woman in the parish, and the youngest married girl in the parish, for the year." Thus, in addition to a substantial benefit, the inhabitants are furnished with a subject for a little mirthful gossip annually.—North British Advertiser.

MARRIAGES.

Feb. 4, at the Independent chapel, Fakenham, by Mr. William Legge, Mr. HENRY HILL, of Stibbard, to MARY REBECCA, third daughter of Mr. E. G. FLOWRIGHT, of Wells.

Feb. 4, at the Independent chapel, Lynn, Mr. JOHN FULLER, mariner, to Miss E. MURRELL.

Feb. 5, at the Independent chapel, Lynn, Mr. WRIGHT BUTCHER, coachmaker, to Miss ELIZABETH DURRANT, St. James's-street.

Feb. 5, at the Unitarian chapel, Gee-cross, by Mr. James Brooks, THOMAS B. POTTER, Esq., son of the late Sir Thomas Potter, of Manchester, to MARY, daughter of Samuel ASHTON, Esq., of Polebank, near Hyde.

Feb. 5, at the Baptist Chapel, Diss, by Mr. Thomas Cotman, registrar, Mr. GEORGE HAROLD, to Miss SOPHIA GIBBS, both of Soale.

DEATHS.

JAN. 28, ANNE, the beloved wife of Mr. BOOTHROYD, of Huddersfield, aged 31 years.

JAN. 30, at Tenement, near Pateley-bridge, aged 100, ISABELLA, relict of Mr. G. KNOWLES, and mother of Mr. J. Knowles, for fifty years an itinerant preacher in the Wesleyan connexion.

TRADE AND COMMERCE.

Friday, February 6.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of 6 and 7 William IV., cap. 85:—

St. James's Church, Rawtenstall, Lancashire.

BANKRUPTCIES ANNULLED.

PICKLES, JOHN, Preston, cotton-spinner.

SMITH, JOHN, Crescent, Jewin-street, Cripplegate, wholesale warehouseman.

BANKRUPTS.

BAKTER, EDWARD WHITE, Coventry, ironmonger, Feb. 18, March 16: solicitors, Messrs. Vincent and Co., Temple; and Mr. Hodgson, Birmingham.

BURBIDGE, JOHN, and BURBIDGE, JOHN, junior, Tysoe-street, Clerkenwell, cabinet-makers, Feb. 11, March 14: solicitor, Mr. Macphail, Wilmington-square.

DECKHAM, GEORGE, Merthyr Tydvil, butcher, Feb. 20, March 20: solicitor, Mr. Hassell, Bristol.

DUKE, JAMES, Newark-upon-Trent, plaster-merchant, Feb. 16, March 16: solicitors, Messrs. Jaques and Edwards, Ely-place; and Mr. Brown, Nottingham.

FROST, JOHN WILLIAM, Back-lane, Kingsland-green, coffee-dealer, Feb. 13, March 20: solicitors, Messrs. Shearman and Slater, Great Tower-street.

GUNN, ROBERT, Clare, Suffolk, corn-dealer, Feb. 13, March 20: solicitors, Messrs. Hughes and Turner, Charles-street, City-road.

HILL, JOHN, Birmingham, currier, Feb. 18, March 20: solicitor, Mr. Harding, Birmingham.

INGLIS, ALEXANDER, Portsea, draper, Feb. 17, March 25: solicitors, Messrs. Soles and Turner, Aldermanbury.

MOYLE, CHARLES, Whitechurch, Shropshire, linen-draper, Feb. 20, March 13: solicitors, Messrs. Reed and Co., Friday-street; and Messrs. Sale, Worthington, and Shipman, Manchester.

NEEDHAM, the Hon. FRANCIS HENRY, New Bond-street, dressing-case-maker, Feb. 17, March 20: solicitor, Mr. Fisher, Verulam-buildings, Gray's Inn.

NOCK, JOSEPH HENRY, High-street, Poplar, outfitter, Feb. 12, March 17: solicitors, Messrs. Hodgson and Co., Lincoln's Inn-fields.

NOLLER, SAMUEL, Ipswich, innkeeper, Feb. 12, March 20: solicitor, Mr. Buchanan, Basinghall-street.

OPENSHAW, GEORGE HANDEL, Over Darwen, Lancashire, powerloom-cloth-manufacturer, Feb. 19, March 12: solicitors, Messrs. Bower and Son, Chancery-lane; and Messrs. Ainsworth and Sons, Blackburn.

ROBERTS, JOHN, Kidderminster, clothier, Feb. 13, March 20: solicitors, Messrs. Cox, Son, and Walrod, Sise-lane, Bucklersbury.

STOCKBRIDGE, WILLIAM, Wandsworth, tobaccoist, Feb. 17, March 18: solicitors, Messrs. Lawrence and Co., Old Fish-street.

TURNER, RICHARD CHARLES, Houndsditch, carpenter, Feb. 12, March 20: solicitors, Messrs. Norton and Son, New-street, Bishops-gate.

WARD, FRANCIS, Batley, Yorkshire, rag-merchant, Feb. 19, March 24: solicitors, Mr. Taylor, Nicholas-lane; Mr. Haxby, Dewsbury; and Mr. Bond, Leeds.

WHITE, JOHN, St. Benet's-place, Gracechurch-street, wine-merchant, Feb. 14, March 14: solicitor, Mr. Eyre, Bond-court, Walbrook.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

HICKS, J., Glasgow, bookseller, Feb. 10, March 10.

RICHARD, D., Auchterarder, manufacturer, Feb. 13, March 20.

SPENCE and SONS, R., Linlithgow, curriers, Feb. 12, March 5.

DIVIDENDS.

De Wilde, Wells-street, Oxford-street, furnishing ironmonger div. of 5s. 6d., Feb. 4; 9, King's Arms-yard, Coleman-street—Dousbery, Farringdon-street, City, boot factor; div. of 3s. 4d., Feb. 4; 9, King's Arms-yard, Coleman-street—Howell, Queen's Head-passage, Newgate-street, hotel keeper; div. of 2s. 6d., Feb. 4; 9, King's Arms-yard, Coleman-street—Davies, Liverpool, merchant, first div. of 3s., any Thursday; 11, Eldon-chambers, Liverpool—Townsend, 6, Little Russell-street, Covent-garden, pawnbroker; second div. of 3d., any Wednesday; 25, Coleman-street.

Tuesday, Feb. 10.

The following building is certified as a place duly registered for solemnising marriages, pursuant to an act of the 6th and 7th William IV., c. 85:—

Eyre-street Chapel, Sheffield.

BANKRUPTS.

ALLERTON, RICHARD, Bootle-cum-Linacre, Lancashire, Feb. 27, March 24: solicitors, Mr. Walker, Furnival's-inn, London; and Mr. Bradley, Liverpool.

BEYNON, WILLIAM, Birmingham, button manufacturer, Feb. 24, March 24: solicitor, Mr. T. S. James, Birmingham.

BRETTON, STEPHEN, and TUNWELL, THOMAS, Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square, Feb. 17, March 20: solicitors, Messrs. Reed and Langford, Friday-street, Cheapside.

BLYTH, JAMES, Chelmsford, Essex, grocer, Feb. 16, March 21: solicitor, Mr. William Heath, Nag's Head-court, Gracechurch-street.

BURROWS, WILLIAM, 15, Grove-street, Hampstead-road, builder, Feb. 17, March 18: solicitor, Mr. H. T. Roberts, 2, Bride-court, Fleet-street.

DUNSFORD, WILLIAM JAMES, Bristol, surgeon, Feb. 24, March 24: solicitor, Mr. Brook Smith, Bristol.

ENSOLL, RICHARD, Broad-street, Bloomsbury, draper, Feb. 20, March 27: solicitors, Messrs. Mardon and Pritchard, Christchurch-chambers, Newgate-street.

EWBANK, COOPER, Manchester, share broker, Feb. 21, March 19: solicitors, Messrs. Capes and Co. Gray's-inn, London; and Mr. Binney, Manchester.

GODDARD, GEORGE, Leicester, tea dealer, Feb. 19, March 24: solicitors, Messrs. Hill and Mathews, St. Mary-axe.

JOHNS, JOSEPH, 29, Grosvenor-street, Pimlico, cook, Feb. 17, March 18.

MELLANBY, JOSEPH, Hartlepool, broker, Feb. 20, March 24: solicitors, Mr. C. A. Wawn, Stockton-on-Tees; Mr. James Wright, 8, New-inn, Strand; and Mr. William Lockey Harle, Newcastle-upon-Tyne.

NICHOLLS, GEORGE CODRINGTON, sometime of Woodside, Birkenhead, but now of Upton, Cheshire, commission merchant, Feb. 20, March 13: solicitors, Mr. Wilkins, Furnival's-inn, London; and Mr. R. C. Brown, Liverpool.

PASCOE, JOHN THOMAS, late of 58, High-street, Mile-end New-town, and 30, Henegate-street, Spitalfields, and now of 58, High-street, metal-refiner, Feb. 27, March 27: solicitor, Mr. Joseph Smith, Finsbury-terrace.

PURCELL, SAMUEL, 420, Strand, ironmonger, Feb. 20, March 30: solicitor, Mr. S. Hughes, Bedford-street, Covent-garden.

SPICER, WALTER, North Audley-street, Oxford-street, printer, Feb. 19, March 24: solicitor, Mr. Hepburn, Copthall-court.

SAUNDERS, THOMAS FRANCIS, late of Burton-upon-Trent, but now of Peckham, Surrey, brewer, Feb. 17, March 20: solicitor, Mr. Seaman, 12, Pancras-lane, Cheapside.

SCOTCH SEQUESTRATIONS.

PRIMROSE, PETER, Glasgow, flour merchant, Feb. 13, March 1.

HASTINGS, ALEXANDER, and PATERSON, JOHN HOWIE, Glasgow, corn merchants, Feb. 16, March 9.

BRITISH FUNDS.

	Wed.	Thur.	Fri.	Sat.	Mon.	Tues.
3 percent. Consols ..	95½	96	97½	97	97½	97½
Otto for Account ..	95½	96½	95½	97	97½	97½
3 per cents Reduced ..	95½	97	97½	95½	98½	98½
New 3 per cents ..	98	99	99½	99½	99½	99½
Long Annuities ..	104	104	104	104	104	104
Bank Stock ..	208½	208½	208	208	209	207
India Stock ..	257½	258	259	258	240	257
Exchequer Bills ..	33pm	37pm	38pm	39pm	40pm	39pm
India Bonds ..	37	—	45	—	41	45

FOREIGN FUNDS.

Belgian ..	97½	Mexican ..	31½
Brazilian ..	83	Peruvian ..	39
Buenos Ayres ..	40	Portuguese 5 per cents ..	27½
Columbian ..	164	Ditto converted ..	61
Danish ..	89½	Russian ..	113
Dutch 2½ per cents ..	60½	Spanish Active ..	28
Otto 4 per cents ..	95	Ditto Passive ..	64
French 3 per cents ..	83½	Ditto Deferred ..	16½

RAILWAY SHARES.

Birmingham & Gloucester ..	130	London & Croydon Trunk ..	22½
Blackwall ..	83	London and Greenwich ..	10½
Bristol and Exeter ..	84	Ditto New ..	—
Eastern Counties ..	22½	Manchester and Leeds ..	136
Edinburgh and Glasgow ..	75	Midland Counties ..	148
Grand Junction ..	—	Ditto New Shares ..	29
Great North of England ..	216	Manchester and Birm'g ..	77½
Great Western ..	166	Midland and Derby ..	123
Ditto Half ..	92	Norwich and Brandon ..	25½
Ditto Fifths ..	37	South Eastern and Dover ..	39½
London and Birmingham ..	225	South Western ..	73
London & Birm. ½ shares ..	27½	Trent Valley ..	20½
London and Brighton ..	68½	York and North Midland ..	100

MARKETS.

MARK LANE, MONDAY, FEB. 9.

The supply of English wheat from Essex, Kent, and Suffolk, was moderate this morning; dry samples being very scarce sold readily at fully the terms of this day's night; others were difficult to quit, but we observe no alteration in their value: old and free foreign are much wanted, but the high prices at which they are held cause the sales to be quite in retail. With the exception of a parcel or two of bonded to millers, there was little doing. Barley is a heavy sale, and is to 2s. per quarter decline. Beans move off slowly, and peas of all sorts 1s. per quarter cheaper. Oats, in consequence of large arrivals, are difficult of disposal, and a reduction of 6d. to 1s. per quarter.

NEW MUSIC FOR PIANOFORTE.

THE NEW DANCE MUSIC FOR CHRISTMAS.

THE PIANISTA, No. 63, contains "The Royal Navy" and Welsh Quadrilles, now playing at the Promenade Concerts. The two Sets 1s., charged by Jullien 7s.—No. 62 contains the "Elfin" Waltz, and two new songs, for 1s.—No. 61, Music in "Marble Maiden," 1s.—No. 60, the Mazurka, Polka, and Quadrille in "The Devil to Pay" (Diable à Quatre), now playing at Drury Lane, and all the Theatres, 1s.—No. 59 contains the whole Opera of "Sonnambula," 2s.—No. 57, ditto "Fra Diavolo," 2s.—Or the Nos. from 57 to 62, in splendid binding, as a Christmas or New Year's Present, for 10s., sent carriage free to any part of the Kingdom for a Post Office order for 12s., in favour of the Editor, 67, Paternoster-row.

TO FLUTE PLAYERS.

The **FLUTONICON**, for December No. 1845, price 6d., contains the Music in "Le Diable à Quatre." No. 143 contains the Opera of "Sonnambula;" No. 142, "Fra Diavolo;" No. 97, "Norma." All the numbers contain the gems of an Opera, or equivalent, for 6d. To the Flute player, as recreations after more difficult studies, the Flutonicon is invaluable. The whole numbers in Twelve Vols. for Four Guineas, elegantly bound, or in 145 numbers, at 5d. each.

MELODIES FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS.

The **MUSICAL BEE** is well known in the Musical World as the cheapest and best work issued in London. Every number contains fourteen to twenty melodies for 2d. Numbers 1 to 49 are published. As a specimen, take No. 41, which contains the popular song of "Love Not," "Minuet d'Exaudet," the whole five of Musard's Puritani Quadrilles—Song with words "Dance, Dostman, Dance," and upwards of eight other melodies. The whole for 2d. Complete Sets or Single Numbers may be had at the Pianista, Flutonicon, and Musical Bee Office, 67, Paternoster-row (one door from Cheap-side).

BETTS'S PATENT BRANDY, certified by the Faculty of England to be the purest spirit, and guaranteed by the Patent Metallic Capsules, embossed "Betts's Patent Brandy," 7, Smithfield bars, is sold at 3s. 6d., bottle included, by the most respectable dealers, lists of whom may be obtained at the Distillery, where quantities of not less than two gallons, in bulk or bottles, are supplied. Address, 7, Smithfield Bars.

ELECTRO SILVERED DEANEAN PLATE, not to be distinguished from the genuine silver plate.—**GEORGE and JOHN DEANE'S** plate department is replenished with a superb stock of articles wrought out of this beautiful metal. The patterns are quite unique, and the manufacture is strictly the most durable. Candlesticks, tea and coffee sets, cake baskets, table and liquor cruets, waiters, tea, dessert, and table spoons, dessert and table forks, and every other article usually produced in silver, will be found in their plate show rooms in large variety, and at the manufacturer's prices.

DEANE'S DOUBLY-REGISTERED STULOS COFFEE-POT—The strictly scientific construction of this article involves two simple processes, which, by their rapid and certain action, secure a run of rich, boiling, aromatic, and brilliant coffee, within five minutes. When the interior cylinder is first filled with boiling water, the latter drives out all the cold air from the body, into which the extract instantly follows. When the cylinder is filled the second time, and is raised to the top of the pot, the tall column of small diameter is, by a well known law of pneumatics, instantly emptied into the pot below, and the coffee is at once ready for use.—**GEORGE and JOHN DEANE**, opening to the Monument, 48, King William-street, London-bridge.

ACCEPTABLE PRESENTS—The present season is hallowed by one of the most delightful offices of friendship and affection; the interchange of gifts as remembrances of the donors, and tokens of their esteem for the receivers. The most appropriate present becomes the first subject of consideration; a merely useful one can afford no evidence of taste, while a present possessing no claims to utility shows a want of judgment. To combine these requisites, a more fitting souvenir cannot be suggested than

ROWLAND'S TOILET ARTICLES,

THE MACASSAR OIL, KALYDOR, and ODONTO,

each of infallible attributes. In creating and sustaining luxuriant silken tresses, Rowland's Macassar Oil is highly and universally appreciated; Rowland's Kalydor is a preparation of unparalleled efficacy in improving and beautifying the skin and complexion; and Rowland's Odonto, or Pearl Dentifrice, is invaluable for its beautifying and preservative effects on the teeth and gums.

The august patronage conceded by our gracious Queen, and the several Sovereigns of Europe, together with the beauties which adorn the circles of princely and regal magnificence, and the confirmation by experience of the infallible efficacy of these creative renovating specifics, have characterised them with perfection, and given them a celebrity unparalleled.

Beware of Spurious Imitations! See that the word "ROWLAND'S" is on the wrapper of each article.

Sold by them, at 20, Hatton-garden, London; and by Chemists and Perfumers.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES—A Remedy for all disorders of the Pulmonary Organs—in Difficulty of Breathing—in Redundancy of Phlegm—in Incipient Consumption (of which Cough is the most positive indication) they are of unerring efficacy. In Asthma and in Winter Cough they have been seldom known to fail.

KEATING'S COUGH LOZENGES are free from every deleterious ingredient; they may, therefore, be taken at all times, by the most delicate female and by the youngest child; while the Public Speaker and the Professional Singer will find them invaluable in allaying the hoarseness and irritation incidental to vocal exertion, and, consequently, a powerful auxiliary in the production of melodious enunciation.

Prepared and sold in boxes, 1s. 1d., and tins, 2s. 9d., 4s. 6d., and 10s. 6d. each, by **THOMAS KEATING**, Chemist, &c., No. 79, St. Paul's-churchyard, London. Retail by all Druggists and Patent Medicine Vendors in the Kingdom.

RECENT TESTIMONIALS.

London, 68, Cheapside, Dec. 3, 1845.
DEAR SIR—Having, for some years past, as the winter approached, been subject to a severe cough, my attention was lately called to your Cough Lozenges, and, after taking two small boxes in the course of the last three weeks, I have no hesitation in saying that, in my opinion, they are the best remedy, and have given me more ease than anything I have ever met with. I am, dear sir, yours truly,
(Signed) **WILLIAM WHITE.**

To Mr. T. Keating, 79, St. Paul's-churchyard.
The following Testimonial of a Cure of Cough of twenty years' standing, and recovery of strength, will be read with much interest—

SIR—I beg to inform you that, for the last twenty years, I have suffered severely from a cough, and have been under medical treatment with but little relief, and have not for many years been able to walk more than half a mile a day. After taking three boxes of your lozenges my cough entirely left me, and I have this day walked to Ross, a distance of four miles. For this almost renewal of life I am solely indebted to your lozenges. You are at liberty to make what use you please of this letter, and I shall be happy to answer any inquiries respecting my cure. I remain, sir, your obedient and obliged servant,
(Signed) **MARY COOKE.**

Pencraia, July 16, 1845.

Extract of a Letter, dated St. John's, Newfoundland—

To Mr. Thomas Keating, St. Paul's-churchyard, London. October 18, 1845.

SIR—From an advertisement in the *Christian Witness*, I was induced to get a supply of your Cough Lozenges, which I did not receive till some time last month, and they have taken so readily, that I have only a few tins remaining. Several of my customers have expressed their satisfaction with them; and my mother, who has an asthmatic cough, and grandmother (over eighty), a chronic cough of many years' standing, were both sensibly relieved the first night after taking them. I now require an additional supply a little larger than the first. You will please to send me, by the earliest opportunity, six dozen boxes, and two dozen tins, for which I will remit you by Mr. Campbell, who leaves here in December. I remain, sir, your obedient servant,
SAMUEL KNIGHT.

These Lozenges contain neither Opium, nor any preparation of that drug.

Lately published, Third Edition, in one vol. 12mo, price 4s. 6d., **SIXTY-EIGHT LETTERS from the Rev. JOHN NEWTON**, Rector of St. Mary Woolnoth, London, to a Clergyman and his Family, from the year 1791 to 1801. Never before published.

London: SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, and Co., Stationers' Hall-court; Hatchard and Son, Piccadilly; W. Whyte and Co., Edinburgh; S. W. Maddox, Launceston; W. Curry and Co., Dublin; J. Robertson and Co., Dublin; and all booksellers.

AN IMPORTANT INQUIRY for the MEMBERS OF BAPTIST CHURCHES.

Free or Open Communion—"Is it from heaven or of men?"

DEAR FRIEND,—This is a very important inquiry, and ought not to be passed over without the most careful and serious investigation. Recollect, open communion allows the unbaptised to come to the table of the Lord—thereby encouraging them to neglect the positive command of the Lord and Saviour. If open communion were from heaven, should we not find either a command or an example of it in the Word of God? Have its advocates produced either? Certainly not. Be not ensnared, then, by the persuasions of men, to adopt it until you have carefully and prayerfully examined the New Testament. You will find that only believers were baptised, and only baptised believers were united in church fellowship, and only those so united partook of the supper of the Lord.

Many novelties and corruptions were introduced into the churches after the apostles' times; but if we closely search the writings of the fathers, and the pages of ecclesiastical history, no traces can be found of free communion, or that an unbaptised person was admitted to the table of the Lord until the sixteenth century. What is the first account we have of it? Why, that Faustus Socinus, who denied the divinity of our Lord Jesus Christ, went from Germany to Poland, about the year 1579, where he introduced the system of free communion, with his other pernicious doctrines, and caused the baptised churches to depart from their original, and till then, universal practice, as he himself acknowledged.

The history of this departure from scriptural doctrine and practice, and of its direful consequences, with extracts from Socinus's writings, is given in Mr. Howell's work on communion, p. 302–310. It is true many have followed in his course, and good men at different periods since, have urged various reasons for adopting free communion; but can they lead you to the scripture with "thus saith the Lord?" Ask them for their authority to separate faith and baptism as joined by our Lord, Mark xvi. 16; or to alter the order of his commission, Matt. xxviii. 19. Then prayerfully read Acts ii. 37, to the end; Acts viii. 30–39; x. 44, to the end; and other similar Scriptures; and you will soon be able to decide that Free or Open Communion is not from heaven, but from man, and that man Faustus Socinus!

Which will you follow, Christ and his Apostles, or Socinus?

VOICE OF ISRAEL, published on the First of

every Month, and may be obtained of all Booksellers and Newsmen in the Kingdom, is the only Journal conducted by Jews who believe in Jesus of Nazareth as the Messiah. Price Three-pence; or Stamped, Fourpence. Edited by the Rev. R. H. Hershell, Author of "A Brief Sketch of the Jews," "Visit to my Fatherland," &c.

The VOICE OF ISRAEL consists principally of—

I. Essays on passing topics connected with the Jews and Judaism; in which the cause of the converted Jew is advocated; hints thrown out for labourers in the Jewish Missionary field; and those portions of Scripture expounded and enforced which relate to the Messiahship of Christ.

II. Articles on the History and Literature of the Jews.

III. Strictures and Expositions of the Talmudical, Cabbalistic, and Rabbinical Writers.

IV. Spiritual Exposition of the Jewish Ceremonies and Feasts, &c., &c.

V. Notices of the Present State and Movements amongst the Jews in various parts of the world.

VI. Spiritual Experience, &c., of Converted Jews.

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It is hoped that to the Christian minister and Biblical student the VOICE OF ISRAEL will be especially useful; but besides this class of readers, it will be acceptable to Christians generally, and especially those who are interested in Israel. To these—

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2. It will present a storehouse of Christian Jewish Literature, &c.
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THE CHRISTIAN WITNESS.—"This is decidedly one of the most instructive publications of the day."

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The VOICE OF ISRAEL is published on the 1st of every Month, by J. UNWIN, 31, Bucklersbury, and may be obtained of all Booksellers and Newsmen in the Kingdom. Price 2d.; or, Stamped Edition, 4d. 4s. per year in advance. Orders for Stamped Copies, to the Publisher, must be accompanied by pre-payment, in postage stamps or otherwise. The First Volume, bound in cloth and lettered, is now ready, price 7s.

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Four Large Volumes 8vo, for One Pound per Annum.

MR. CLARK has the pleasure of announcing that the First Volume of the above series for 1846, being HENGSTENBERG'S COMMENTARY on the PSALMS, is now ready for delivery. Price to non-subscribers, 10s. 6d.

LUCKE on the GOSPEL of ST. JOHN, will follow in the first year's subscription.

Gentlemen already in possession of Hengstenberg will be charged only 25s. as their subscription for Two Years.

Subscriber's names are still received by the publisher, 38, George-street, Edinburgh; Ward and Co., and Aylott and Jones, London; John Robertson, Dublin; and all respectable booksellers.

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The high estimate formed by the public during the ten years RIPPON and BURTON'S chemically purified material has been before it, (made into every useful and ornamental article usually made in silver, possessing, as it does, the characteristic purity and durability of silver,) has called into existence the deleterious compounds of "Albata Plate," "Berlin Silver," and other so-called substitutes; they are at best but bad imitations of the genuine articles manufactured, with the view of satisfying the purchaser, by Rippon and Burton, and sold only by them.

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Table Spoons and Forks, full size, per dozen.....	12s.	28s.	30s.
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Teaspoons, per dozen.....	18s.	32s.	38s.
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Dessert Spoons.....	30s.	52s.	62s.
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Fine.....	56 .. 62	Pale.....	52 .. 65
White.....	54 .. 63	Rye.....	34 .. 40
Barley.....	60 .. 65	Peas, Hlog.....	31 .. 34
Flour, per sack.....	30 .. 56	Maple.....	31 .. 33
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Oats.....	21 10	Oats.....	22 2
Rye.....	32 0	Rye.....	34 1
Beans.....	35 6	Beans.....	36 10
Peas.....	35 8	Peas.....	38 3

SEEDS, MONDAY, Feb. 9.

It appears pretty certain that there will be no alteration in the duties of clover-seed till June next: samples of red continue in favour, but white seed and trefoil remain dull. The quantity of canary-seed on sale was more than equal to the demand; and, though factors were willing to accede to a decline of 3s. per qr., the greater part remained unsold. In all other articles no alteration occurred.

POTATOES, SOUTHWARK, Waterside, Feb. 9.

This market has been glutted with potatoes during the past week. Some of those cargoes that made long passages were considerably damaged in consequence of the disease, but the great decline in the prices of some samples increased the demand, and there was considerable business done at the following quotations:—York reds, 80s. to 110s.; ditto Regents, from 80s. to 110s.; Scotch reds, from 50s. to 61s.; superior fresh samples, 70s. to 75s.; Jersey blues, 70s. to 80s.; Montrose buffs, 70s. to 80s.

HOPS, BOROUGH, Monday, Feb. 9.

The supplies were anything but abundant, and the demand is heavy. In prices we cannot notice any alteration of importance.

PROVISIONS, LONDON, Monday, Feb. 9.

The butter market for general descriptions remains in a dull and inactive state, and business of a retail character; but the finest brands meet a ready sale, and in some instances a trifling advance in prices obtained. In the bacon market but a moderate business was transacted. The arrivals having given the dealers a supply, there were but few buyers to be met with, and prices of landed declined about 2s. per cwt., on board. Some sales were made of Galway heavy meat, at 44s., for shipment for three or four months. Lard meets a slow sale, and prices the turn cheaper.

BUTCHER'S MEAT, SMITHFIELD, Monday, Feb. 9.

Notwithstanding the attendance of both town and country buyers was tolerably numerous, and the weather more favourable for slaughtering, the beef trade was in a very sluggish state, at a decline on the currencies obtained on this day se'nnight of 2d. per 8lbs., the very highest figure for the best Scots not exceeding 4s. 4d. per 8lbs., and which a clearance was with difficulty effected. The numbers of Sheep were again unusually limited, the deficiency in them, compared with those exhibited at the corresponding market-day in 1845, being about sixteen thousand head; hence the mutton trade was again brisk, and last Monday's advanced prices were firmly supported. The best old Downs readily produced 5s. 6d. per 8lbs. The few prime lambs on sale this morning sold readily at 7s. per 8lbs. Calves, the numbers of which were small, moved off steadily, at full prices. The pork trade was very steady, at last week's quotations. The supply of pigs was moderately good.

Price per stone of 8lbs. (sinking the offal).

Beef..... 2s. 8d. to 4s. 8d. | Veal..... 4s. 8d. to 5s. 8d.
Mutton..... 3 10 .. 5 6 | Pork..... 3 10 .. 5 2

HEAD OF CATTLE AT SMITHFIELD.

Beasts.	Sheep.	Calves.	Pigs.	
Friday.....	892	3,680	124	305
Monday.....	3,180	18,200	53	280

NEWGATE and LEADENHALL MARKETS, Monday, Feb. 9.

Per 8lbs. by the carcass.

Inf. Beef 2s. 6d. to 2s. 8d.	Inf. Mutton 3s. 8d. to 4s. 0d.
Middling do 2 10 .. 3 0	Mid. ditto 4 2 .. 4 6
Prime large 3 2 .. 3 4	Prime ditto 4 8 .. 4 10
Prime small 3 4 .. 3 6	Veal 4 8 .. 5 8
Large Pork 3 8 .. 4 6	Small Pork 4 8 .. 5 2

WOOL.

There has been, on the whole, a fair business doing in most descriptions of wool, and at advanced rates from December prices. The mildness of the weather has been against the flannel trade, and has prevented a more considerable advance in flannel-wool than has taken place. Blanket-wool has been almost out of request, but is now more inquired after.

COTTON.

LIVERPOOL, Feb. 6th.—We have had a very good demand from the trade this week, and the market, though freely supplied, has been much more regular and steady in price, with a slight tendency upwards, especially for American descriptions, which are mostly held firmer, but without any material variation, the market having scarcely recovered the depression noticed last week. Yesterday the demand was very active, and 12,000 bags were sold, only 2,000 of them on speculation; to-day the market is quieter, and the sales not more than 6,000 bags, all to the trade.

HAY, SMITHFIELD, Feb. 7.—At per load of 36 trusses.

Meadow..... 68s. to 88s. | Oat Straw..... 30s. .. 32s.
Clover Hay..... 88 .. 112 | Wheat Straw..... 32 .. 34

COAL EXCHANGE, Feb. 6.

Stewart's, 17s. 6d.; Hetton's, 17s. 6d.; Braddyl's Hettons, 17s. 6d. Ships arrived this week, 657.

GROCERIES, TUESDAY, FEB. 10th, 1846.

TEA—The public sales were concluded yesterday; of 44,000 packages offered, 4,000 only were sold. The deliveries amount to 496,000 lbs. Sound Congou are selling at 94d. to 10d.; good common, 104d. to 11d.; Twankay ordinary, at 1s. 2d. per lb.

COFFEE—Some small parcels offered in auction fetched lower rates. Good ordinary (native) Ceylon are selling by private contract at 48s. to 49s. per cwt.

SUGAR—The trade bought 200 hlds. and tierces by private contract. There was but little done in refined goods. Standard lumps selling at 63s. 6d. to 64s., and brown grocery at 62s. to 63s. per cwt. 7,000 bags Mauritius, in auction, sold at lower rates. Good to fine yellow 50s. to 52s. 6d.; low to middling, 47s. to 49s. 6d.; good to fine grey, 50s. to 51s.; low grey to middling, 47s. to 49s. 6d.; fine brown, 46s. to 47s. per cwt. 2,800 bags Bengal, in auction, fetched rather lower rates.

ADVERTISEMENTS.

FURNITURE and BEDDING—Cheapest and best house in London is SMITH'S FURNITURE MANUFACTORY, 22, Frederick-street, Bagnigge-wells-road, opposite Clerkenwell police court. Bed room chairs from 1s. 6d. each; cane-seat ditto, French polished, 2s. 6d.; drawing room chairs from 4s.; solid rosewood at 15s.; solid mahogany low tables, 28s.; solid rosewood couch, £3 15s.; French bedstead, full size, 15s. The limits of an advertisement preclude further enumeration; but books of prices, with copious designs for every description of house, sent postage free. Considerable advantages to country residents, as all furniture bought at this establishment is delivered carriage free.

ENROLMENT OF THE MILITIA.

THE FRIENDS OF PEACE throughout the country are earnestly requested to forward PETITIONS against the Enrolling and Training of the Militia Force without delay. See the Reply of the Secretary-at-War to Mr. T. S. Duncombe's Inquiry, in the Newspapers of Tuesday, February 3rd.

JOHN JEFFERSON, Secretary to the London Peace Society.

19, New Broad-street, Feb. 5, 1846.

LONDON AND PROVINCIAL BUILDING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY.

(To be Enrolled pursuant to Act of Parliament, 6 and 7 William IV. ch. 32.)

Shares, £120.—Monthly Subscription, 12s. per Share.—Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d. per Share.

No Redemption Fee.

Monthly Subscriptions payable at Radley's Hotel, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, on the Third Wednesday in each Month, from 10 to 12 o'clock in the Evening. The First Monthly Subscription will be payable on Wednesday the 18th February, 1846, when a Sale of Shares will take place. Persons entering the Society previous to that time will be eligible to bid for an advance of money.

PATRONS.

The Rev. John Campbell, D.D., Tabernacle House, Finsbury.
The Rev. James Sherman, Surrey Parsonage, Blackfriars-road.
The Rev. George Smith, Trinity Parsonage, Poplar.

TRUSTEES.

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Samuel Morley, Esq., Wood-street, Cheapside.
William Biddome, Esq., Fenchurch-street.

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William Biddome, Esq., Fenchurch-street.
William Tyler, Esq., Bolt-court, Fleet-street.
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Samuel Blackburn, Esq., Globe Office, Strand.
(With power to add to their number.)

MANAGER.

Mr. William Lawley, 6, Red Lion-street, Borough.

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Messrs. Hankeys and Co., Fenchurch-street.

SOLICITORS.

Hull Terrell, Esq., 30, Basinghall-street.

Joseph Bagster, Esq., 3, Sise-lane, Bucklersb't

SURVEYOR.

John Morris, Esq., 58, Fenchurch-street, and 4, Trinity-terrace, Poplar.

SECRETARY.

Mr. Charles Burs, jun.

The objects of the present Society are the following:—

I. To enable persons to build dwelling-houses, or to purchase freehold or leasehold property, on the most advantageous terms.
II. To afford assistance to congregations wishing to erect chapels or school-rooms, and to enable parties to extinguish chapel debts, and prevent the possibility of foreclosure in cases where buildings are mortgaged.

III. To give to monthly depositors a higher rate of interest than is yielded by the ordinary modes of investment.

IV. To give to persons advancing money by way of loan to this Society interest at the rate of 5 per cent. per annum.

V. To advance money to shareholders upon freehold or leasehold property, and upon reversions or other kinds of real security, subject to the approval of the Directors; and to enable mortgagors to redeem their mortgages.

Applications for Shares may be made, in the undermentioned form, to Mr. Hull Terrell, 30, Basinghall-street; Mr. Joseph Bagster, 3, Sise-lane, Bucklersbury; and of Mr. William Lawley, 6, Red Lion-street, Borough; from whom also Prospectuses may be obtained.

Prospectuses may also be obtained at Radley's Hotel, Bridge-street; and of John Morris, Esq., 58, Fenchurch-street, or 4, Trinity-terrace, Poplar.

All Post-office orders must be made payable at the Office, St. Martin-le-Grand.

For the further accommodation of applicants for shares, the Secretary or Manager will attend at Radley's hotel, New Bridge-street, Blackfriars, on Tuesday and Friday in each week, from six to nine o'clock, to allot Shares, and answer inquiries. Letters for the Secretary or Manager may also be addressed, post-paid, to Radley's hotel.

To the Directors of the London and Provincial Building and Investment Society.

I request you will enrol me a Member of The London and Provincial Building and Investment Society for Shares, and I inclose £ s. d., being the Entrance-Fee of 2s. 6d., and the first Monthly Subscription of 12s. upon each of such Shares.

Name in full
Profession or Trade
Residence
Date

THE WEST LONDON DISSENTERS' AND GENERAL BUILDING ASSOCIATION AND ACCUMULATING FUND.

Shares, £120 each. Monthly Subscription, 10s.
Entrance Fee, 2s. 6d. per Share.

No Redemption Fee. No Fine on Withdrawal.

PATRON.

Rev. J. W. Richardson, of Tottenham-court-road Chapel.

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Edward Swaine, Esq., 185, Piccadilly.
Edward Brown, Esq., 41, Hertford-street, May Fair.
Thomas McDougal, Esq., 2, Mornington-crescent.

DIRECTORS.

Mr. John Barker, 22, Exmouth-street, Clerkenwell.
— E. Bartholomew, Silver-street, Golden-square.
— C. Blake, 8, Stephen-street, Tottenham-court-road.
— J. Bartholomew, 219, Tottenham-court-road.
— R. F. Cheshire, 3, Cambridge-street, Golden-square.
— Elliot, 268, Oxford-street.
— Fernandez, 15, Somers-place, Euston-square.
— Samuel Foley, 99, Wardour-street.
— John Gurner, 9, Wigmore-street.
— William Hone, 43, Newman-street.
— William Isaac, 183, Piccadilly.
— B. L. Leand, 216, Tottenham-court-road.
— B. Laimbeer, 45, Cromer-street.
— J. Masters, 25, Lower-road, Islington.
— W. Parkins, 11, Hurray-street, Oxford-street.
— John Rabbits, 342, Oxford-street.
— J. Webb, 109, Tottenham-court-road.
— F. W. Willcocks, 98, Goswell-street.
— F. W. Gairdner, 80, Tottenham-court-road.
— F. Boothby, 112, Great Portland-street.
— J. Langmead, 16, Grove-terrace, St. John's-wood.

TREASURER.

John Gurner, Esq., 9, Wigmore-street.

BANKERS.

The London and Westminster Bank—Marylebone Branch.

SOLICITOR.

James Townley, Esq., 21, Coleman-street, City.

SURVEYOR.

John Tarring, Esq., 23, Charles-street, Middlesex Hospital.

MANAGER.

Mr. John Gable, 8, South Conduit-street, Bethnal-green-road.

SECRETARY.

Mr. J. I. Holcombe, 15, Somers-place East, Euston-square.

The next Meeting will be held on Tuesday Evening, Feb. 17, at Seven p.m., at Tottenham-court-road Chapel School-room (entrance in John-street), for the purpose of enrolling the names of persons wishing to become Members; when Prospectuses may be obtained, and any information that may be required relative to this Association.

For the further convenience of persons wishing to become Members of this advantageous Association, the Manager or Secretary will attend at the School-room, Tottenham-court-road Chapel, on Tuesday and Friday in each week, to allot Shares and answer inquiries.

By order of the Directors,

JOHN GABLE, Manager.

JOHN I. HOLCOMBE, Secretary.

AN APPEAL.—In the hope that the ordinary resources of the Society would be equal to its pressing wants, the Committee of the LONDON FEMALE MISSION have, for a considerable period, refrained from any public appeal to Christian benevolence; but the lamented decease of valued friends, and an unexpected falling off (arising from pressing local claims) in the remittances of country auxiliaries, compel the Committee again to advertise the need and claims of the Institution.

The Society was established in 1836, since which period, and through its instrumentality, upwards of 400 degraded outcasts have been rescued from shame and misery; more than 400 friendless, but virtuous young girls, have been saved from public vice, and, after having been fitted for domestic service, have been placed therein; whilst at its "Servants' Home and Registry" upwards of 700 respectable female servants, when out of place, have been sheltered and preserved from the contamination of a cheap London lodging-house.

That the Society may be enabled to continue its labours, and not be compelled, at this season of the year, from want of funds, to contract its operations, the liberal contributions of the benevolent are entreated, and will thankfully be received by Messrs. Barnett, Hoare, and Co., 62, Lombard-street; Lord Henry Cholmondeley, 17, Lower Grosvenor-street; Henry Pownall, Esq., Treasurer; E. T. Carver, Esq., Sec.-Treasurer; and by Mr. G. Groser, Secretary, 20, Red-Lion-square.

The Committee gratefully acknowledge the following contributions:—

Her Majesty the Queen Dowager (Sub.).... £10 10 0	
The Dowager Lady Westminister	£2 10 0
The Countess of Chester	2 2 0
Lord Denbigh	1 1 0
S. B. Brook, Esq.	10 10 0
R. P. W., Esq.	5 0 0
G. Johnson, Esq.	5 0 0
J. Niblett, Esq.	10 0 0
Sir G. Smart, Bart.	£1 0 0
J. Skeritt, Esq.	1 1 0
The Hon. Miss Kinaird	2 0 0
F. F.	40 0 0
John Vanderkiste, Esq.	1 1 0
Robert Holland, Esq.	20 0 0
J. W. Alexander, Esq.	5 5 0

THE PUBLIC RECOGNITION OF THE REV. ROBERT WALLACE, as the Pastor of the Church at Tottenham, will be held on Thursday, the 19th instant. The Morning Service will commence at a quarter past eleven, and the Evening Service at Six o'clock.

The Rev. J. ALDIS, of Maze Pond, will deliver the Introductory Address; and the Rev. T. SWAN, of Birmingham, will deliver the Charge to the Pastor. In the Evening, the Rev. H. HINTON, of Devonshire-square, will preach the Sermon to the People.

Dinner and Tea will be provided in the School-rooms. Tickets, 3s. each.

Trains will leave the Terminus, Shoreditch, at half-past ten in the morning, and return at twenty minutes past eight in the evening; and Omnibuses leave the Flower-pot, Bishopsgate-street, at ten o'clock in the morning.

UNITED KINGDOM BUILDING AND INVESTMENT SOCIETY.

Present Entrance Fee, 3s. per Share.—Monthly Subscription, 10s. per Share.

No bidding for Shares.—No Redemption Fees or Interest on Advances.

TRUSTEES.

William Freeman, Esq., Millbank-street, Westminster.
Thomas Pevsner, Esq., Gracechurch-street.

DIRECTORS.

Peter Broad, Esq., Tavistock Villa, Shepherd's Bush (Chairman).
George William Burge, Esq., New North-road.
Richard Cartwright, Esq., Chancery-lane.
Francis Cuthbertson, Esq., Aldersgate-street.
Robert Gurnam, Esq., Wilmot-square, Bethnal-green.
William Grover, Esq., Great Dover-road.
William Groser, Esq., Red Lion-street, Clerkenwell.
John Mann, Esq., Bartholomew-close.
Robert James Millar, Esq., Albion Villas, Hammersmith.

SECRETARY.

Mr. William Lovely, 12, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, and Hammer-smith.

BANKERS.

London and Westminster Bank, Lothbury.

SOLICITORS.

Messrs. Watson and Sons, 12, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street.

SURVEYOR.

John Tarring, Esq., Charles-street, Middlesex Hospital.

The objects of this Society (which has been some time in preparation) are:—

1. To effect the extinction of all the debts now existing upon Chapels, School-rooms, and other public buildings, as well as to assist in their enlargement, or the erection of new ones.
2. To enable persons to acquire dwelling-houses, or other freehold, copyhold, or leasehold property, either for occupation or as an investment.
3. To enable persons whose property is at present mortgaged to protect themselves from the liability of being unexpectedly called upon for the re-payment of the mortgage money.
4. To afford the means for the profitable employment of capital.

The amount to be advanced to Shareholders on each share is fixed according to the following Table:—

Year.	Subscription on One Share.	Sums to be advanced from 1st to 13th Year.
1	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
2	6 0 0	60 0 0
3	12 0 0	60 15 0
4	18 0 0	62 5 0
5	24 0 0	61 10 0
6	30 0 0	67 10 0
7	36 0 0	71 5 0
8	42 0 0	75 15 0
9	48 0 0	81 0 0
10	54 0 0	87 0 0
11	60 0 0	93 15 0
12	66 0 0	101 5 0
13	72 0 0	109 10 0
	78 0 0	118 10 0
	Additional,	1 10 0
		120 0 0

This Table has been examined and approved by the Actuary of the Legal and General Life Assurance Society.

Thus there will be no competition for advances on shares, nor will any redemption fee be charged, it being intended to give every possible advantage to the borrower, consistently with a fair remuneration to the shareholders who simply desire to invest their capital.

Shareholders may transfer their shares at any time, or withdraw the subscriptions paid on them, or repay to the Society the money which they have received by way of advance.

Prospectuses, with full particulars, may be obtained on application (if by letter, post paid), to Mr. William Lovely, Secretary, or to either of the above Directors or Officers.

Application for Shares may be made (post-paid) to Mr. William Lovely, Secretary, 12, Bouverie-street, Fleet-street, in the following form:—

To the Directors of the United Kingdom Building and Investment Society.

I request you will allot me Shares in this Society, and I enclose £ s. d., being the Entrance Fee upon each of such Shares.

Name in full
Profession or Trade
Residence
Date

All Post-office orders must be made payable to Mr. William Lovely, at the Office, St. Martin's-le-Grand.

ORIGIN OF THE LEAGUE.

THE MANCHESTER TIMES of next Saturday will contain a HISTORY of the ANTI-CORN-LAW MOVEMENT in Manchester, previous to the formation of the NATIONAL ANTI-CORN-LAW LEAGUE.

Copies of the paper will be forwarded by post, on the receipt of four penny stamps each.

Ducie-street, Manchester, Feb. 9, 1846.

DREADFUL CONFLAGRATION at PITTSBURGH, UNITED STATES.

A Public Meeting was held in Oxenden Chapel, Haymarket, on Tuesday Evening, Feb. 3rd., for the purpose of making an appeal on behalf of the friends of the Second Associate Reformed Church, which was reduced to ashes by that awful fire. The meeting was addressed and the object recommended by the Rev. Dr. Archer; the Rev. A. H. Wright, from Pittsburgh; the Rev. William Chalmers; the Rev. Dr. Leitch; and the Rev. James Hamilton would have followed, but his arrival was too late in consequence of a previous clerical engagement on the same evening. This fire has laid fifty acres of the city in ruins. The members of this congregation have generally lost their dwelling-houses and private property, as well as their church, and the extent of the destruction will show that there was no prospect of sufficient aid at home. They are generally European emigrants, and in their present distress they look to the land of their fathers for relief. The Rev. A. H. Wright, himself a European, is not their Minister; so that his present labour is a work of brotherly kindness. He is furnished with all necessary documents and testimonials, and during this week he will call on some of the friends of Christianity in the metropolis and neighbourhood.

Donations and subscriptions will also be received by any of the above ministers, and by Messrs. Nisbet and Co., 21, Berners-street, Oxford-street; Jackson and Walford, 18, St. Paul's-churchyard; and Mr. N. H. Cotes, 139, Cheapside.

MRS. MUSTON'S ESTABLISHMENT offers to

Ladies, Gentlemen, and Families requiring stated, occasional, or partial Board, the comforts of a private Residence, with the advantages of a Select Boarding House. The house is large and commodious; the situation is airy, quiet, and central for the West-end or the City, and for coach-offices, &c. A private sitting-room, if required.

References are kindly permitted to the Rev. Caleb Morris, Fetter-lane Chapel; Rev. John Clayton, Poultry; Rev. J. Angell James, Birmingham; Rev. John Burder, Bristol; Apsley Pellatt, Esq., of London; and Edward Baines, jun., Esq., Leeds.

81, Hatton-garden.

MRS. HENRY VINCENT begs to inform her

Friends and the Public that she receives a limited number of Young Ladies, to board and educate. The instruction given combines every department of useful and polite education, with the greatest attention to the health and comfort of pupils.

Fellenberg House, Church-row, Stoke Newington.

LAUNDRY.—WANTED, in a Public Institution,

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